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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I guess, judging from the vote on the call the question, we need some more education here, but I'd challenge anybody to say they've been to an Ag Land Valuation Board meeting and actually sat there and listened to what they did because I have and my board out there, I did not hear a word from them. I did hear from some county commissioners out there saying, we need to get rid of this. They...as Senator Stuthman aptly pointed out, there's supposed to be either a commissioner or a representative of the commissioners appointed to this, and I don't think there are very many commissioners want to take the time. Apparently, there's some resistance to eliminating this and I think all he gets is a per diem and mileage, but maybe there's more involved here than I realize because it seems to me like an excellent opportunity to get rid of a level of...a layer of bureaucracy here that we just don't need. Senator Stuhr pointed out in her opening that these were formed in 1994, and it was to provide equalization between counties. Well, there's no equalization between areas. There are eight areas in the state, and I think the bigger question is whether there's equalization between areas. And then after this was formed, in 1995 TERC was placed in the statutes, and that supersedes the authority of Ag Land Valuation Boards. So I, for the life of me, see no reason to maintain both. There's some talk about, well, let's get rid of TERC instead of Ag Land. I don't think we're going to do that today. This is a first step, though, in providing some efficiency in this government, local government, and I find it rather difficult, I guess, to understand the argument we need these because, quite honestly, they have no authority but what is overridden by TERC and, of course, the courts eventually. So I stand in complete support of eliminating these. I'm listening to the argument but some of the arguments actually work in the favor of eliminating. When they are overruled by TERC, it tells you right there that they sometimes haven't done good work and TERC still has authority over them. So to maintain these boards, I think, is simply the wrong direction to go. So I continue to stand in support of Senator Stuhr's bill, and think we should certainly eliminate the Ag Land Valuation Boards.