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students, its actual amount spent per student is second to the lowest. It's funding per student is less than 60 percent of that for Abie Public School, a school that reported no poverty or ELL students and was the featured school in the World-Herald story this past weekend. The picture does not improve as you look at valuation per student, which is financial capacity to support school buildings. Valuation per student in the other Class I districts ranges from a minimum of 4 times to more than 15 times that in Schuyler Grade School district. In my view, the state cannot and should not be complicit in this sort of school organization and funding arrangement. Some additional points: You may hear that the state stand to look REAP money if this proposal is adopted. Grants total about \$7 million per year, and our estimate is that about \$1 million would be lost if Class I districts are assimilated. To prevent this \$1 million loss you would need to perpetuate the structure in Schuyler. You'll probably hear that this won't save any money, although this argument is much tougher given the fiscal note we now have. The revised fiscal note shows a saving of more than \$12 million per year. Because the decisions are left to K-12 boards in this proposal, the Fiscal Office is appropriately cautious. But consider that the amount budgeted to all Class I schools in the current year is about \$75 million. Also consider that only the 89 smallest Class I's that are less than ten miles from another elementary site are budgeted almost \$13 million and that many, if not most, of these are near elementary sites in K-12s that have available capacity. I'm convinced the potential gains in efficiency are considerable. You'll probably hear also that this is forced consolidation. It's forced consolidation of school boards. There is no forced consolidation of attendance centers. And the tax base has already been consolidated. This simply puts budgetary control in the hands of local taxpayers by providing the authority of the boards to all elected residents. The current situation is one of forced nonconsolidation by the residents of K-12 districts, and the majority of residents in many Class I school districts. Finally, you may hear some negative comments about me, personally. They are probably true. (Laughter) But keep in mind that I'm familiar with Class I schools. I attended a Class I school. Some of my current employers, business partners, and neighbors send their kids to a Class I school. In addition, I resist change. I simply and