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a rural senator, I know I've been receiving some e-mails and letters and a little bit surprised on the position that I'm taking, because I do support what we are trying to do, and that is to assimilate those Class I's into a K-12 system. I believe that the time has come. I'm thinking back that I also attended a Class I, as I know many of the people in this Chamber did, but times have changed. I think back why we originally had Class I's. We had Class I's because we had a lot of people out in those rural areas. That was one reason. The second reason, we didn't have the transportation. When you hear probably maybe some of your grandparents talking about riding to school on a horse or walking, that's what most of us did. We didn't have the means of transportation that we have today. Also, our roads, we had dirt roads. Some of you may not remember that, but we did have dirt roads. Today we have paved roads. Today we have declining enrollments in our rural areas. In our particular county, we did away with Class I's 40 years ago. Times change, and I think that's what we're talking about today, is that let's look at some efficiency. We have very limited resources in the state of Nebraska. We all know that. We've been through...we've been through some very difficult times in the last few years. I think we all want to use those resources the best...very best possible way that we can. I think in some of the hearings and some of the studies that have been done, it was brought to our attention that we have a lot of levels of administration. What we are trying to do is to assimilate those into this K-12 system. There are some great Class I's, I know. We can all...we all know that. But there are also some Class I's that are not so great, and I think I'm particularly concerned about those that are located a couple miles out of town. I'm very concerned about keeping our rural communities, but I think that there are some provisions included in the bill that if a school is located in a community they will be able to continue for a certain number of years, if a school is located...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: ...I think there's a ten-mile provision. But we're talking about those schools that are right outside of a town and many of those are in the eastern part of the state. We