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Lincoln, of these five eastern counties, is 20 times greater than Cherry County, while the area of the school districts are much smaller in eastern Nebraska. Road limitations in Cherry County are as important a consideration in the formation of Class I districts as anything else. Eastern Nebraska perceptions do not hold in Cherry County. Imagine trying to operate the Seward school district spread over all five counties,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR FISCHER: ...with one-tenth of the roads system available. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Senator Janssen, followed by Senator Heidemann, on the McDonald amendment.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Interesting discussion, very interesting discussion. And this happened several years ago, when Class VI districts were put into place. I served on one of those Class VI district boards. And in most cases, in most cases, all you would lose is the elementary board. Hearing Senator Fischer speak about Cherry County, that wouldn't be feasible to close some of those elementary schools. They're too far away. I heard her talk about some of the nice graveled roads we have in the eastern part of the state. Yes, we do have, a lot of them that are paved in my county. Class VI districts were put into place, usually, to reorganize. And then, at that time, some of the elementary schools were closed. They didn't have enough students. The members of those local boards chose to close that school. And if there's a need for that elementary school to be open, it will remain open. It would be up to that local board. That school will remain open. And they will probably, I would imagine, provide transportation. If I'm wrong, someone correct me on that. Beginning June 15 of '06, school boards would be prohibited from closing any elementary attendance center, or changing that grades offered, if the fall membership of the prior school year includes a total number of resident students that will at least be 2.5 times the number of grades offered, and the attendance center is at least ten miles from another