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state can get control over what's happening at the local level with property taxes? Five of the counties of my thirteen counties, five of them are within the Northeast Community College service area. And, Senator Chambers, I don't support this bill. It's an increase in property taxes. We've heard comments made that Northeast Community College has been treated differently. I take that to mean that Northeast Community College has somehow been treated differently than the other five community colleges. I don't believe that statement. Senator Raikes said that Northeast Community College is facing some of the challenges that they face now because of their decisions. I agree with that statement from Senator Raikes. We heard from Senator Flood that Northeast Community College wanted to serve the students of that area. And since there's a glass wall at Wayne, and those students then go to Iowa to community college, Northeast Community College made the decision to pay tuition...to make up the difference and pay tuition to Iowa. Senator Flood and I had that conversation earlier, and I was totally amazed, and I was floored that that decision was made. I'm happy that that is no longer going to happen from Northeast Community College. I don't agree that property taxpayers, those from the five counties that I have in my legislative district that are in Northeast Community College's service area, or the property taxpayers anywhere in the state of Nebraska, need to see an increase in property taxes to support community colleges. I agree with Senator Bourne that decisions have to be made. And decisions have to be made on what this state can afford, what the people of this state can afford to pay for. Because it's the citizens of this state that are footing the bill, whether it's local property taxes or whether we talk about the state, the state paying it. Face it, guys. It's people. It's people that are paying for this. And I think we need to decide what people in this state can afford to pay for. I don't support this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR JANBBEN: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, of course, as you know, I do support this bill. And what Senator Fischer was just talking about, that contract with WIT, Western Iowa Tech College, several years ago, where we reciprocated, and that