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LB 425

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Senator Fischer.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I support Senator Stuthman's motion. I would hazard to guess that the majority of people who are sitting in this Chamber, when they campaigned and their constituents said to them that our property taxes are too high, the majority of us sat there and nodded our heads along with them and we said, yes, we agree and we need to do something, and we better get these property taxes down. I know that's what I heard in my district, and I campaigned for over a year, every single day, and that is what I heard--property taxes are too high. Thirty-eight of us supported this when we voted for it, to add it to the budget. I would say, if you look back at the discussions at that time, what you will see is, yes, property taxes are too high in this state, local property taxpayers can't afford any more; and if the state keeps requiring counties, cities, school districts to provide certain services, to perform certain duties, then the state better step up to the plate and the state better meet its obligations in funding those. If we are going to sit in this Chamber and require things then we better be willing to fund them. Because I can tell you, as a property taxpayer, and I live in a district filled with property taxpayers that are upset on what's happening, then let's step up to the plate and fund what we are requiring counties, cities, and school districts to do. I support this amendment, this motion, and I will continue to support it. Thank you, Senator, for introducing it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I appreciate Senator Fischer's impassioned dialogue and I want to rise to state my position that I just decided upon about three minutes ago, and that is that if we're going to have an argument of property tax relief, I hope it's meaningful. I don't think that a \$400,000 appropriation across the state, to where it's pennies, practically, per person is meaningful property tax relief. In my time in public service, whether it was at the