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FLOOR DEBATE

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and now they're going to leave it at \$1.05. That's a state increase of your property tax. For some districts, that will make a difference. For many of the districts out in the western end of the state, they have so few students and cover so much territory that we're down below that \$1.05 anyway, so that is...won't make any difference whether it's \$1 or \$1.05; we'll not receive any tax relief from that whatsoever. This is something that if the money goes in to save property taxes, and it's...Senator Beutler has mentioned, this is usually in your rural areas, your farms and your ranches. If you...if those people save \$24.6 million, you can bet that those \$24.6 million will probably be mostly spent on downtown Nebraska. The Farm Bureau and some of these different trade organizations have shown that one in every three Nebraska jobs is related to agriculture, so you have to keep a viable agriculture going. You can't tax it to death, and this is what's going on. So I brought this amendment forwards. I think it needs to be discussed. And I will show that this is probably the only thing that's come up today that shows any property tax relief. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Synowiecki. Senator Synowiecki? Senator Synowiecki is recognized to speak.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Baker, members. Senator Louden, this is about education, and that's why I think your amendment is misplaced. It's not about farming, not about property tax values in western Nebraska. It's about education. And the community college...I don't know where Senator Flood has been, but the board of governors that runs the Metropolitan Community College has been in rather consistent contact with me about the fundamental faults with the current spending formula, funding formula for our community college system. You know, essentially, by adopting your amendment, we're going to be throwing good money after bad, and we need to get this formula fixed. I think Senator Flood's speech, when he spoke to this formula, that there are fundamental flaws in it, I agree. As a representative whose district totally is encompassed by Metropolitan Community College, again, I don't know what Senator Flood, quite frankly, was talking about relative to Metropolitan Community College's position on that. I'm very well familiar