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tax 5 cents by keeping it at \$1.05 instead of dropping it when it's supposed to do it by law is an increase, a bigger increase than I'm going to save on any income tax cut that you had. We need to look at this very carefully. Yes, it costs a lot of money to put that state aid to bring that tax levy back down to \$1 where we said we would do it. But if you want to do something for what people are most concerned about, it is the property tax, and it's just as important to residential people as it is to ag people. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kopplin. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I get the sense you don't...you don't want to...you don't want to really grasp hold of some things in here. You know, I really don't understand why any Governor would want his name to this tax package because it really is a property tax increase bill. You are taking away \$59 million of property tax relief that goes into effect a couple years out, and you're replacing it with \$20 million of property tax relief, which takes place now, but at the end of the third year it's still \$20 million. Valuations go up, but valuations that go up will hurt the farmer provision in here anyway. Valuations need to stabilize, and hopefully they will. But the general approach that we've taken to state aid, although it might not be as effective as some would like, still nonetheless, over a period of 40 years, less than 40 years, has resulted in a decrease in property taxes from being 60 percent of our total taxes to being 38 and 39 percent of our total taxes. Why do we want to depart from something that we debated just a year ago, or maybe it was two? Times goes faster now, but we had a big debate on this a year or two ago, and we reaffirmed our decision to drop the levy. The state aid that we would have to give to make up for that we estimated at about \$59 million. So...and that property tax reduction, of course, applied to everybody. I think farmers are overtaxed. I don't mind dropping the evaluation (sic) or dropping the maximum levy, the percentage, but it seems to me that the better deal is to drop everybody's tax from \$1.05 to \$1, because the amount of tax is so much larger overall, and you don't have the detrimental effect in the rural districts of shifting the tax from the farm producer to other people in the community who live in the small