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FLOOR DEBATE

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the Louden amendment is AM2818, not AM2210, as I stated. Discussion, AM2818. Senator Kopplin.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Actually, I had my light on to just refer to greenbelts. I'm going to go ahead and say a few words about that. I believe maybe my colleagues who presented the plan for eliminating greenbelt and recapture funds have underestimated what it means to Sarpy County, to Lancaster County, and many others. I believe we have said that it is simply a slowdown on the bookkeeping process for the counties and that it's a windfall and little is gained from it. Not so. It's big money to Sarpy County; it's big money to many, many counties. The receiver of these monies is primarily the school systems. When you eliminate the greenbelt and the recapture, what you are doing is saying what I've said before: It's okay; it won't make any difference because you can get your money back in the school aid formula. This is the wrong approach to take. I will be presenting an amendment later to deal with this, but I did want to bring your attention at this time that it is not the simple matter, in my opinion, that has been presented here today. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kopplin. Further discussion? Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Landis.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Senator Raikes, could I just ask a couple of questions?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It's been a long time since we've talked about greenbelt, and I wanted you to refresh my memory and maybe the memory of others on some of the mechanisms involved. But the whole idea of greenbelt is primarily to benefit land that is near an urban center of some sort that is taxed, normally, for its best and highest use, and if it is in proximity to an urban area, its best and highest use may be development potential which would tend to raise the price of the value of the land. And the greenbelt is a mechanism that allows you to continue to