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SENATOR HUDKINS: After the assessment duties within Saunders County were taken over by the state, a couple of years--well, not even that long--not too long after that, with the increase in offices and personnel and everything, it really ended up costing the county more, and they wanted to go back to doing their own assessments and were not allowed to.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I don't know the answer to that, because I haven't researched everything that's happened with the Assessor's Office and all that. I'm trying to deal with...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the mechanics and with the results of one particular transaction, which is large, in and of itself, and I feel completely comfortable that, down the line after this has gone into effect, with the merger and consolidation that can happen, that there will be savings here, beyond a doubt. That's just my opinion.

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

SENATOR LANDIS: I happen to be a supporter of LB 529, but I know that there are some people who are opponents. I want to make sure they get a chance to talk. I see Senator Stuhr's light is on. I'd be happy to allocate my time to opponents, so that if there are people who want to speak and who haven't because of the order... Senator Stuhr, I think, is an opponent. Are there others who want some time? Because I'll be happy to transfer some of my time. Senator Pederson. Senator Pederson, if I can give you my time, and perhaps you'd share whatever is left with Senator Stuhr. I would yield my time to Senator Pederson.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Senator Landis, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Beutler, would you respond, please, to a question?