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SENATOR STUHR: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Further discussion? Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Stuhr, I've agreed to try and expedite this. Is anyone else...I'm going to yield a little time to Senator Wehrbein. Senator Stuhr, do you want any more time, or...let me say a couple words first. It's time we moved into the next century, folks. And we have all the electronic filings and so on; we can provide some efficiencies here, some accountability. And I want to address, just a second, the assessors. It's not a mess out there. They're doing a good job. We have nine counties. We have several counties now who have applied for state assessors...the state to take over their assessment issues. I think maybe...I'm trying to figure out why in the world the counties are so opposed to this, but those are restricted funds we're talking about. When the assessors' offices were taken over by the state, those funds went out of the county budgets. They couldn't be transferred. Those were restricted funds. I suspect maybe that has something to do with what their opposition is here, too. So I continue to support Senator Beutler's amendment, and I'd like to get it to a vote. Senator Wehrbein wanted a minute, and then if he just takes a minute, I'd yield the rest of my time to Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, would you yield?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I will only be a minute. I want to just say two things. I support this bill, and I applaud Senator Beutler for this. One of the things I like is a phase-in. I think there's been several references to the assessor issue a few years ago, and I believe if we'd gone about the assessor issue as we've gone about this, we would have been much more successful, perhaps not pulling in the whole state, but at least we've had clusters where we'd had some success. If we'd had the assessors now in areas where they wouldn't be so widespread, we would have some definite efficiencies that we're not able to obtain by