

property tax levy is for us to allow them to enter into longer lease-purchase agreements. Right now they can only enter into one. I think the law limits them to entering into lease-purchase agreements only for the life of the board which means two years. This is not long enough for those kind of agreements. They are, what the legislation is asking for is to allow them to enter into a lease-purchase agreement at least 20 years and this would allow them to build the facilities that they need and also allow them to have some operating capital there so that they can continue to fund those buildings and to fund the ongoing costs that are going to be associated with the changes that they're making, but they are not going to come back to the Legislature to ask for additional dollars to do this. I don't want to do that and they don't want to do that. They realize that this restructuring is necessary. It's not something that any of us like to see happen, but it has got to happen in western Nebraska now and I think that if we do this we are going to give them the leeway and the latitude to make these changes and make this campus a much more cost-effective way of educating the students that are out there. Right now we are running into tremendous costs. I think that the Sidney campus now when you combine the two campuses, it shows over \$9,000 a student. The coordinating commission says 6,400, 6,500 is what they should be. That's what they, rather than the 9,000 that you're looking at there. We have got to make some changes there, make some adjustments to bring that cost per pupil down and to make this a much more efficient operation out there. So with that I would be happy to answer any questions. They have gone through a study for a couple of years. They have been working with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, NCHEMS. They have been working with them. They've also brought in a fellow from Arkansas to help them work with the idea of making this into an industrial park. They've been working with the community and working with the business leaders in the community to try to educate them as to what needs to happen on this campus and so far they've been doing an excellent job that way. I've gotten very little feedback yet on this. People are aware that it's going to happen out there. I think that they are accepting of that knowing the costs that we have and the costs that are associated with that college. They are willing to look at this restructuring and I think that it's important for us as a Legislature to not put roadblocks in their way and this removes one of those roadblocks and says that we will allow this restructuring to take place and allows them to do what they need to do to make for a more efficient operation.