

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Yeah.

SENATOR LANDIS: Okay. One out of 93 counties has a greater than 6 percent property tax increase as a response to the provision which Senator Hohenstein would like to see not stricken from the bill. Four counties, there are some benefits in the bill and that is that we remove from their authority ministerial provisions. There is some support for counties in here. These are for...these are for property taxes that are levied by counties on behalf of other authorities, boards and commissions which are outside the definition of property taxes. Now, someplace above 6 and below 12, we know it's above 6 and apparently, and I have no reason to doubt, Kurt, it is some place below 12, are the kinds of property tax increases that the language which I'm striking would allow. It's for that reason that the Governor's staff has indicated they have some difficulty with the bill and which I'm trying to avoid myself a problem. I, frankly, don't want to be in a situation which a 9 or 10 percent property tax increase gets pushed through and justified on the basis of an alteration that I've made here. I will accept that it's less than 12. Kurt's already told us that it is more than six and that was in one out of 93 counties cases. I, frankly, don't want to have property tax increases that make the credibility of the tax of the lid seem cynically flexible and that's why I proposed the amendment. It has been done in conjunction with the Revenue Department at least for style. Frankly, there is a policy choice and it is true we could go down a path that Senator Hohenstein would like us to go down. I, frankly, don't want to get down a path that is going to authorize 8 or 9 or 10 percent property tax increases and still try to tell people that we have a property tax lid so that we can solve the problems of Wayne County. There is some relief for Wayne County in here. It comes in the form of the ministerial provisions and I think that is legitimate and sufficient. I'd urge the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Mr. President and members, I stand up in support of the Landis amendment. I had a lot of concerns. Of course, Sarpy County and any of the other counties that were affected with the flood had this potentially same problem. Several years back, Grand Island, Hall County was also affected. When you have natural disasters it was very important that we were allowing it on one side of the formulation for the lid and not