

a 5 percent lid, whatever we might do. But we are talking about property tax relief and I just want to remind you that maybe we ought to have a new look at how we finance a number of things. And I just want to remind you that Senator Sieck and I are going to have a proposal that has been laying there in the Legislature for...I think we introduced it last January, a year ago, and we may get a chance to look at it. And we have a situation where probably we could cut much of the school...many of the schools, we could cut their property tax by 50 percent. I just think it is a good time to put the 7 percent lid to rest. It hasn't done the job. Those that don't come up to the...that aren't worried about the 7 percent, they budget to 7 percent anyhow and we have a lot of school districts out there that have the largest reserve they have ever had in history and they are still afraid not to budget to 7 percent. I think we ought to face up to it and let them run their business.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hannibal. Next Senator Sieck and Chronister in speaking order.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the kill motion. I have noticed some of the arguments pro and con here. I would emphasize one part of 813 which was probably the major reason why I signed on the bill originally and that is and some of the arguments that have been purported today that it is not a lid, it is a floor. Please read the bill. Please understand that we can take that floor provision out and that is what 813 is doing by allowing for cumulative effects. It is not saying that you must increase your budget to the maximum allowable lid in order to protect your base. That is what has happened in some cases, as Senator Remmers just pointed out, and that is why it has been called something that just establishes a floor as opposed to a ceiling. This bill allows for that not to happen. Now more importantly though, while we say on this floor and while I have said before during my campaign and during the past year that I have been here, I also do not like lids as a method of running government. I do believe that it is not the best way to run government. It is also not the best way to run governmental subdivisions. They should be responsible.