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LB 1098
LR 292

putting all kinds of numbers, and we do have numbers in the constitution in other ways. There's all kinds of things here that set out percentages and that kind of number, but I get a little concerned about putting too many hard and fixed numbers in the constitution because then if you want to do anything to it you have to go back and put it on the ballot again. So I'm going to pay attention here. I'm not sure how I'm going to vote yet, Ed, but I am listening. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. I also think this is a very important issue and I want to emphasize what Senator Schrock indicated relative to this wouldn't change anything relative to the tax structure now or cause a tax shift now and just from the perspective of trying to provide some information, I introduced LB 1098 what would have valued ag land at 50 percent and there were some surprising things that I found out when I got some information from the Department of Revenue. By reducing ag land valuation to 50 percent, overall statewide shift to the other property that we're taxing would be 4 percent, so it's not anywhere near the massive type of shift that I thought it would be. Now, as always, it affects different parts of the state differently than others, but in no part...there wasn't a single county where the shift was more than 12 percent. Douglas County was on the other end. It would only cause a .3 percent shift in Douglas County. Lancaster County it would only cause a 1.2 percent shift. That's valuing at 50 percent. Of course, this, the amendment that Schrock has before us, Senator Schrock has before us, doesn't do that and so I just provide this as...so that we get kind of a context in our minds of what some of the issues are that we're dealing with. And I think that I agree with Senator Kristensen's comment, that it very well could open up other entities--business, industrial property being valued at a different level, putting that in the constitution, homes being put in the constitution at a different level--and that does certainly concern me. And I guess that even with or without this amendment that still may or may not occur, if not now, some time in the future. So I think that it certainly is appropriate that Senator Schrock bring this issue before us and hope that some of the information I've provided has been of assistance. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator. Senator Chambers.