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SENATOR MAURSTAD: And you think that the Legislature...you still believe the Legislature ought to have that ability to do that?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay. And yet there...are they still intertwined, or do we now have two separate issues, when you're willing to do that?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: They are intertwined as a matter of policy. They...the language in the amendment would allow the Legislature to make independent decisions about both.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you. So it appears to me that what we have is when it suits our fancy for them to be together, they are. And when it doesn't suit our fancy for them to be together, we can divide them. So in the issue of taking the issue to the voters, we're going to put it together because they're intertwined. But once the voters act upon that and send it back to the Legislature for the "enaction," then we can split them up because the question says we may do this. Now I'm not an expert at logic, but that seems to be an inconsistency to me. I am concerned, and the reason why we have the amendment before us is because of the uniformity clause that I think that we...that is violated if in fact we move in this direction dealing with differing rates. It says that the Legislature may adopt reasonable parameters that create differing levies.

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Reasonable is a pretty fuzzy term, from my perspective, to have in the constitution on such a serious issue. And so I hope that we continue to proceed with caution and that we in fact adopt the Maurstad amendment, this part of the divided question that takes this out, that would be consistent with LR 317CA that I introduced this year with 35 cosponsors, that dealt just with the merger and consolidation issue. Thank you, Madam President.