

they are financed. They are financed by a mill levy and that is the only higher education group that is financed by property tax. The state colleges and the university are not financed by property tax but we do have this other form of higher education, the community colleges, financed by a property tax and the people object to that and under the provisions of Senator Koch's amendment we are going to allow a higher mill levy in the very area where they object most strenuously to this property tax for the support of these schools. So I urge the body to reject Senator Koch's amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Koch amendment in this case. You will notice that actually it parallels very much the report out of the committee from the committee's amendments, authored essentially by Senator Vickers, Senator Beutler and myself. This is the one area of agreement that could find a majority in the Committee on Education with respect to LB 363. Every one of the other provisions including the council, including the capital construction language which appears in the committee amendments, those issues were very seriously divided in the committee and of course you have seen committee members here again, Senator Lamb in particular, speaking against this particular language. However, the majority of the Education Committee recognized the need for this language based upon the recalcitrants of western assessors to reevaluate property in that end of the state, therefore, keeping a declining tax base or a minimal tax base unable to support the technical community colleges. This will play into the hands of those people who want a statewide system because this one area, one of the six areas gets dragged down and is incapable of offering genuinely first class services. The hue and cry will be that the existing system of local control does not work and we have to move towards this state system. For that reason I think we should try at least as best we can to make the present system work. To do that we have to recognize the recalcitrance of those western assessors. We have to create the sparsity factor that is enunciated in the Koch amendment and in the committee amendments and pass that into law. It is one issue I am willing to create as law this session with respect to the community colleges. I will be supporting Senator Koch in this amendment. I do point out to the body, that this same language, the essence of this language was agreed to by those of us who designed the committee amendments. It