

fair statewide. Having sat on the county board for several years and we used to receive protests every year, it would more or less...you would arbitrate if some farmer would come in and maybe he was your neighbor or he was a neighbor of some of the other commissioners, more or less that was the way that we used to handle protests. We had no set rules to go by when you did this. With this formula we have figures to go by. We have income streams to go by using the five-year average. It is still the fairest and most equitable program that we have ever had in the State of Nebraska. I think...and I would like to mention this again, if the valuation is fair and someone mentioned about county lines, I think it is very fair across county lines where you do have overlapping districts. This doesn't involve the state any more. They don't receive any of that money anyway, but I think it should make all of us more aware...I mentioned this the other day in one of my bills, to go to our county board meetings, to our hospital board meetings, our NRD, and watch the mill levy because if the value is fair between neighbors, between farms, the mill levy actually is what costs us the money. It is not the valuation. As far as going on the 50 percent value, if you would look at some of the printouts we have had, actually if you would go back to the 50 percent, I think we would come up to something like an 18 percent decrease in land values statewide realizing that counties vary from one county to the other. So I would ask your defeat of the DeCamp amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb, then Senator Haberman.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, it is not often that I disagree with my farm organizations but I am convinced, I am convinced that they have not thoroughly researched this problem. And the easy thing for me to do would be just to go along with the bill as it is and I can always use the excuse, well, all the farm organizations said it is okay so it must be okay. Well, I can't bring myself to do that because deep down in my heart I think eventually they are going to regret this action. You know, I don't know for sure. Maybe I am wrong. Maybe I am wrong, but at least I have to stand up here and tell the body what I think despite the phone calls I get from my friends who urge me to support this bill. Now I don't know if this amendment is going to get on there or not and I don't know if all of it is a good amendment. But I am going to support the DeCamp