

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Remmers, I recognize you, sir.

SENATOR REMMERS: Madam Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the amendment. I hope that the Appropriations Committee doesn't take offense because I certainly do not mean any offense to the Appropriations Committee. I respect all the work that has been put in. But as I see the scenario right now, the Appropriations recommendation came out and does not have 30 votes. I haven't seen anything else that has 30 votes, but I think we all want to come up with something. I don't think the Appropriations Committee work would all be in vain if we adopted this. I think that probably some of the cuts that they made need to be made but probably need to be done in a special session and the work you have done would be somewhere you could start during the regular session. I certainly do appreciate the work that the Appropriations Committee has done. I supported the Appropriations Committee all the way through last spring in the final days of the session and I would like to have done it today. But I just don't think we have 30 votes. We go through each issue one at a time and amend each one. I think we are a long ways. We will be here till Christmas. My concern is that we reach some kind of a conclusion, some kind of a consensus that we can solve it for now and go home. Now the cut that the amendments suggest may bear a little heavily on the local subdivisions but if a...those are the people that have been telling me that we need to cut budget. The message I have gotten from home, almost every constituent, is that we have to cut the budgets. They never seem to realize that property tax deals with local government, that we do not...that is not state tax, the property tax they pay. And also they fail to realize that probably half of our budget is direct aid to the subdivisions. I do not believe that the 5 percent cut on the local subdivisions is something they cannot live with. I believe on the average the cut for the school districts, for instance, will mean about 1 percent of their budget. Now I was just shown a figure a while ago in one district where the figure is large, the cut figure that is suggested is large but their budget is also very large and I believe the cut would only represent about 2 percent of their total budget. Yes, it will bear more heavily on some districts than others. For instance, I live in a rural district with a lot of valuation per pupil and we are not going to suffer that much from it.