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Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

[LB15 LB56 LB67 LB80 LB89 LB89A LB96 LB104 LB132 LB141 LB152 LB156 LB243A
LB245 LB253 LB264 LB293 LB294 LB317 LB323 LB324 LB330 LB330A LB343 LB350
LB357 LB360 LB392 LB402 LB412 LB413A LB413 LB414 LB415 LB419 LB421 LB423
LB423A LB449 LB450 LB458 LB469A LB481 LB482 LB519 LB519A LB529 LB559 LB561
LB566A LB571 LB582 LB591 LB599 LB641 LB642 LB656 LB657 LB658 LB659 LB660
LB661 LB662 LR191 LR192 LR193 LR194 LR195 LR197 LR199 LR201 LR207 LR208
LR209]

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE SEVENTIETH DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS PASTOR CHAR COBBS, NEW BEGINNINGS WORSHIP CENTER, BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA, SENATOR CRAWFORD'S DISTRICT. PLEASE RISE.

PASTOR COBBS: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU. I CALL TO ORDER THE SEVENTIETH DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. ARE THERE ANY CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL?

CLERK: I HAVE NO CORRECTIONS.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU. ARE THERE ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: YOUR COMMITTEE ON ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LB360, LB330, LB253, LB469A, LB519A, AND LB423 TO SELECT FILE. SOME HAVE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION ADDRESSED TO SENATOR BURKE HARR (RE LB414.) THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1271-1276.) [LB360 LB330 LB253 LB469A LB519A LB423 LB414]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR MELLO: MR. PRESIDENT, I'D LIKE A POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE.

SPEAKER HADLEY: GRANTED.

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. FELLOW COLLEAGUES, THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAD JUST SUBMITTED MOMENTS AGO OUR BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS, ESSENTIALLY LB656 THROUGH LB662 PER OUR LEGISLATIVE RULES THAT IS TO BE SUBMITTED BY DAY SEVENTY. WITH THOSE BILLS, THE MAJORITY OF THOSE BILLS NOW HAVE WHITE COPY AMENDMENTS WHICH ESSENTIALLY BECOME THE NEW VERSION OF THE BILL. THERE'S ONE EXCEPTION. LB662, THE CASH RESERVE TRANSFER BILL HAS TWO SLIGHT CHANGES TO IT TO THE UNDERLYING TEXT, SO IT WILL NOT BE A WHITE COPY AMENDMENT. PAGES SHOULD HAVE PROVIDED EVERYONE--IF YOU HAVEN'T, PLEASE FIND ME--A COPY OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IN THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE BUDGET BOOK THAT GOES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS WELL AS AGENCY BY AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS. WE WILL BE HAVING A BUDGET BRIEFING TOMORROW FOR SENATORS AND STAFF AT 8:00 A.M. IN ROOM 1524. YOUR OFFICES SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED AN E-MAIL FROM THE COMMITTEE CLERK. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GRAB ME OFF OF THE MIKE. AND ONE LAST REMINDER, THE NEBRASKA ECONOMIC FORECASTING BOARD MEETS AT 1:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON. WE WILL ALREADY BE IN THE MIDDLE OF BUDGET DEBATE THAT STARTS AT 9:00 A.M., BUT ASSUMING THERE ARE CHANGES THAT ARE MADE TO THE REVENUE FORECAST, THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WILL BE MEETING BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT FILE TO MAKE ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BODY IN RESPECTS TO ENSURING THAT WE HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET TO PROVIDE THE ENTIRE LEGISLATURE. WITH THAT, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AT ALL REGARDING THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FIND ME, OR ANY MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, OR FEEL FREE TO GRAB ANYONE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB656 LB657 LB658 LB659 LB660 LB661 LB662]

SPEAKER HADLEY: WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION AND CAPABLE OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS, I PROPOSE TO SIGN AND DO HEREBY SIGN LR191,

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

LR192, LR193, LR194, LR195, LR197, LR199. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1276.)
[LR191 LR192 LR193 LR194 LR195 LR197 LR199]

MR. CLERK, WE'LL PROCEED TO THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, GENERAL FILE. SENATOR LARSON OFFERS LB330A.
(READ TITLE.) [LB330A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR LARSON, YOUR RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB330A.
[LB330A]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. LB330A IS THE A BILL THAT ACCOMPANIES THE ALCOHOL OMNIBUS THAT THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE KICKED OUT THIS YEAR, THAT MAGNIFICENT PIECE OF UPDATING OUR ALCOHOL STATUTES THAT IS MUCH NEEDED IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE DID A GREAT JOB, AS DID THE FISCAL OFFICE. WHAT THE A BILL ESSENTIALLY WILL COVER WILL BE TWO NEW OFFICERS OR PEOPLE AT THE LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION TO ENSURE BUSINESSES AND COMPANIES AROUND THE STATE OF NEBRASKA ARE FOLLOWING OUR ALCOHOL STATUTES AS WE HAVE SET THEM FORTH. I WOULD URGE A GREEN VOTE ON THIS AS WE CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A WONDERFUL PIECE OF COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION. THANK YOU. [LB330A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK? SEEING NONE. SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE...SENATOR LARSON WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF LR330A TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB330A]

CLERK: 35 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF 330A.
[LB330A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB330A ADVANCES TO E&R INITIAL. MR. CLERK. [LB330A]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SELECT FILE, LB141. SENATOR HANSEN, I HAVE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS PENDING. (ER73, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1125.) [LB141]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB141]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB141. [LB141]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. YOUR LIGHT IS ON, SENATOR BRASCH. SENATOR BRASCH WAIVES. YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. [LB141]

CLERK: SENATOR HANSEN, I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL. [LB141]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB141]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB141 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB141]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. THE MOTION CARRIES. MR. CLERK. [LB141]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB519. SENATOR, I DO HAVE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS FIRST OF ALL. (ER76, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1152.) [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB519. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. MOTION CARRIES. [LB519]

CLERK: SENATOR SULLIVAN WOULD MOVE TO AMEND WITH AM1307. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1229.) [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. AM1307 REMOVES THE SPECIFICATION OF 5 PERCENT OF THE ALLOCATION FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PUTS IT IN THE HANDS OF THE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IN THE FUTURE. FOR THIS BIENNIUM, THE AMOUNTS WOULD BE SET IN AN AMENDMENT TO THE A BILL WHICH IS GOING TO FOLLOW IF THIS AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED. THAT AMENDMENT WILL ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO USE AN ADDITIONAL \$6,169 FOR THE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING PROGRAM WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PROGRAMS CURRENT STAFFING AND OPERATIONS, AND THE COORDINATING...IT ALLOWS THE COORDINATING COMMISSION TO USE AN ADDITIONAL \$39,038 FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH \$30,000 OF THAT AMOUNT TO BE USED FOR THE REQUIRED TRACKING SYSTEM, AND THE REMAINDER FOR STAFF AND OPERATIONS. THE LIMITATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR THE OTHER PROGRAMS WOULD NOT CHANGE FROM THE LEVEL ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN THE A BILL BASED ON THE 5 PERCENT...5 PERCENT ESTIMATES. I ENCOURAGE A GREEN LIGHT IN THE ADOPTION OF AM1307. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WOULD SENATOR SULLIVAN YIELD TO A FEW QUESTIONS? [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR SULLIVAN. LB519 DEALS SPECIFICALLY WITH LOTTERY FUNDS, CORRECT? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: HOW MUCH A YEAR, ROUGHLY, ARE WE BRINGING IN, IN LOTTERY FUNDS? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, IT VARIES BASED ON THE NUMBER OF AND PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LOTTERY TICKETS, BUT ABOUT \$12 MILLION. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: ABOUT \$12 MILLION, AND WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE LOTTERY FUNDS IS THAT, 33 PERCENT? IS THAT WHAT THEY GET? [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR SULLIVAN: FORTY-FOUR PERCENT, I THINK, SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YES. IT'S DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST AND THE GRANT PROGRAMS THAT THEY HAVE AND THEN THE LOTTERY DOLLARS THAT SPECIFICALLY GO TO EDUCATION. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: AND THEN THE STATE FAIR. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, THE STATE FAIR GETS A SMALL AMOUNT. A VERY SMALL AMOUNT GOES TO THE COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS FUND, AND THEN WE HAVE TO LEAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT IN THERE FOR CASH FLOW PURPOSES. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: OKAY. AND I GUESS THE FIRST REASON I ASKED HOW MUCH IS IN THE FUND, AND \$12 MILLION, IT SEEMS A LITTLE SHORT BECAUSE I THOUGHT THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST, WHICH HAS BEEN ANOTHER PASSION OF MINE THROUGHOUT THIS LEGISLATURE, WAS CLOSER TO RUNNING AROUND \$19 MILLION OR \$20 MILLION. BUT THEY GET THE SAME AMOUNT. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, ACTUALLY, I MISSPOKE. APPARENTLY IT'S CLOSER TO \$16 MILLION RATHER THAN \$12 MILLION, SO FAR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: OKAY. OKAY, I APPRECIATE THAT. AND SO LB519, OBVIOUSLY FOR CASH FLOW PURPOSES, YOU HAVE TO HAVE A LITTLE EXTRA IN THERE. HOW MANY...WITH THE CHANGES THAT YOU'RE MAKING, HOW MANY PROGRAMS, ROUGHLY, ARE WE USING FOR THAT \$16 MILLION AND DOES THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS TAKE UP SOME OF THAT \$16 MILLION, OR DOES THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ALLOCATE ALL OF IT? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WE, IN OUR BILL, LB519, ALLOCATE TO THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS THAT WE'VE DETERMINED WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE LOTTERY DOLLARS. AND THEN THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IS THE ONE THAT GIVES AUTHORIZATION THROUGH THE A BILL AND THEN THEY ALSO...NOW, GRANTED, WE'RE PUTTING IN SOME LIMITATIONS ON HOW MUCH CAN BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, BUT AS I EXPLAIN IN THE AMENDMENT, AM1307, WE'RE IDENTIFYING SOME FLEXIBILITY THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WILL HAVE IN TERMS OF MAKING SURE THAT THOSE FUNDS THAT...THOSE PROGRAMS THAT WE'RE SAYING SHOULD BE SUPPORTED, HAVE THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEES TO SUPPORT THOSE PROGRAMS. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR LARSON: AND YOU MENTIONED FUNDS. HOW MANY FUNDS, ROUGHLY, GET THE MONEY, THAT \$16 MILLION? DO YOU HAVE A ROUGH ESTIMATE? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, PROBABLY ABOUT HALF A DOZEN. NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANTS, AND THEN THE INNOVATION FUNDS, AND THE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ACT, AND THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, ABOUT HALF A DOZEN. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: YOU BROUGHT UP THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAP ASSISTANCE FUND AND THAT WAS ONE THAT I WAS INTERESTED IN SPECIFICALLY. CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT A LITTLE BIT? KIND OF LIKE WHAT IT IS? WHY IT'S NEEDED? WHERE EXACTLY IT'S BEING USED? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THIS WAS ACTUALLY A BILL THAT CAME TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE FROM SENATOR BOLZ, SO I KNOW THAT, IF NEED BE, SHE CAN PROVIDE SOME ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF IT. BUT, BASICALLY, IT LOOKS AT SOME OF THESE SHORTAGE AREAS IN TERMS OF WORK FORCE AND WHERE PEOPLE NEED TO BE RETOOLED TO GET ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS. AND SO, IF THERE'S A FINANCIALLY NEEDY INDIVIDUAL SEEKING TO DO JUST THAT, THEN THEY CAN ACCESS THIS FUND FOR ASSISTANCE IN DOING THAT AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: HOW MUCH ARE WE PUTTING IN THAT FUND, ROUGHLY? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I THINK...WELL, AGAIN, IT'S BASED ON AN ALLOCATION. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: AND THE ALLOCATION REPRESENTS, I THINK, ABOUT JUST 1 PERCENT. ONE POINT...THE PERCENTAGE EQUATES TO ABOUT \$1.5 MILLION THAT WILL GO TO THIS PROGRAM. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: ONE AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS AND THIS IS ACTUALLY A NEW PROGRAM. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR LARSON: SO, WE...DO WE HAVE ANY ESTIMATES OF HOW MANY...LIKE HAVE WE SEEN...I GUESS SINCE IT'S NEW, WE HAVEN'T SEEN A DEMONSTRATED NEED. HAS IT WORKED OTHER PLACES, OR IS IT MORE NEEDED IN RURAL NEBRASKA OR URBAN NEBRASKA? I WASN'T...OBVIOUSLY, I'M NOT IN EDUCATION, SO I DIDN'T...I WASN'T THERE FOR THE HEARING. I'M JUST TRYING TO GET A GRASP ON WHAT EXACTLY WE'RE DOING. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THIS HAS BEEN MODELED AFTER, I THINK, SOME SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES AND CERTAINLY WE HAVE HEARD THAT THERE ARE PARTICULARLY MANUFACTURING BUSINESSES THAT ARE CRYING FOR WORKERS AND ADVANCED SKILLS. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE NEXT IN THE QUEUE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: WOULD SENATOR SULLIVAN CONTINUE? [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES, I WILL. SO AGAIN, AS I SAID, IT WAS MODELED AFTER A PROGRAM GOING IN OTHER STATES. SENATOR BOLZ MIGHT BE ABLE TO ELABORATE A LITTLE BIT FURTHER, BUT AGAIN, WE HAVE HEARD TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT WE HAVE WORKER SHORTAGES AND SKILLS NEEDED IN SPECIFIC AREAS IN MANUFACTURING ALL ACROSS THE STATE AND PARTICULARLY IN RURAL NEBRASKA, AND I THINK THIS GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL SPEAK TO SUPPORTING STUDENTS WHO WANT TO GO INTO THOSE KIND OF AREAS. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: AWESOME. DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH, ROUGHLY, A CREDIT HOUR AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: NO, I DON'T. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR LARSON: I WONDER...MAYBE SENATOR BOLZ MIGHT BE ABLE TO BETTER ANSWER THAT QUESTION. I'LL COME BACK TO YOU, IF YOU DON'T MIND. I'M SORRY. SENATOR BOLZ, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BOLZ, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB519]

SENATOR BOLZ: SURE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: I DON'T KNOW YOU HEARD THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SENATOR SULLIVAN AND I. DO YOU KNOW, ROUGHLY, HOW MUCH A CREDIT HOUR IS AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE? IS IT STANDARD THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM...ALL THE SYSTEMS, OR...? [LB519]

SENATOR BOLZ: IT'S A GOOD QUESTION. IT VARIES BY COLLEGE AND BY PROGRAM. A ROUGH ESTIMATE MIGHT BE \$55 OR \$65 PER CREDIT HOUR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: SIXTY DOLLARS IS AN AVERAGE? [LB519]

SENATOR BOLZ: BUT IF YOU HAVE A PROGRAM, LIKE A WELDING PROGRAM, YOU'LL HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE IN FEES AND EQUIPMENT COSTS. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: SO...WHAT DID YOU SAY, \$65 A CREDIT HOUR IS AVERAGE THROUGH ALL THE PROGRAMS? [LB519]

SENATOR BOLZ: IF YOU WERE, SAY, TAKING A GRAPHIC DESIGN CLASS, THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD ESTIMATE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: OKAY. THANK YOU. [LB519]

SENATOR BOLZ: SURE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: SENATOR SULLIVAN, AND I GUESS I SHOULD ASK SENATOR BOLZ, WAS \$1.5 MILLION THE ORIGINAL ASKED IN SENATOR BOLZ'S BILL OR DID YOU GUYS SCALE THAT DOWN A LITTLE BIT? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I THINK MAYBE IT WAS A HIGHER ASK, BUT AGAIN, WE WERE LOOKING AT BASING OUR ALLOCATIONS ON PERCENTAGES AND SO WE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

IDENTIFIED IT BEING ABOUT 1 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL...OR WAS IT 10 PERCENT...
10 PERCENT, I THINK...9 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ALLOCATION. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: I DID QUICK MATH. DO YOU KNOW, ROUGHLY, HOW MANY
STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGES? MAYBE SENATOR
BOLZ WOULD BE A BETTER ONE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I'M SORRY, SENATOR LARSON, I DON'T KNOW THE TOTAL
NUMBER AND ALL THAT. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: BECAUSE AS I DO MY ROUGH MATH AND \$1.5 MILLION IS
ROUGHLY AT \$65 A CREDIT HOUR ON AVERAGE THAT WOULD...THE STATE
WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY FUNDING 23,076 CREDIT HOURS' WORTH OF
CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION. AND I GUESS I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW MANY
CREDIT HOURS THE AVERAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT TAKES. I KNOW
A TRADITIONAL FOUR-YEAR STUDENT USUALLY IS RIGHT AROUND 30 HOURS,
OR 24 TO 30 HOURS DEPENDING ON WHAT THEY WANT TO DO THEIR WORKLOAD
IN, AND AT 30 HOURS, THAT WOULD EQUAL OUT TO BE ABOUT 769 STUDENTS A
YEAR THAT THIS WOULD PAY FOR. NOW, I UNDERSTAND THAT THAT'S NOT
A...THAT'S NOT A BAD THING. BUT IT SEEMS...I DON'T KNOW IF IT WOULD BE
SOMEWHAT EXCESSIVE AT THIS POINT, ESPECIALLY TO BEGIN THE PROGRAM. IF
THAT MANY STUDENTS ARE GOING TO ACTUALLY COME IN AND USE THIS, HOW
DO THEY GET IT? HOW DO THEY APPLY? HOW DO THEY...YOU KNOW, WHAT ARE
THE...BECAUSE IT JUST SEEMS LIKE ACTUALLY QUITE A FEW PEOPLE, 769, AND
WHAT IF THE MONEY IS NOT USED. ARE WE GOING TO DO REAPPROPRIATION,
ROLL IT THROUGH THE BUDGET PROCESS AGAIN? DOES IT ROLL BACK INTO
ANOTHER FUND? BECAUSE THAT'S...I MEAN, I KNOW THE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE WILL REAPPROPRIATE IT A LOT. DO WE HAVE ANY OF THAT
DETAILED? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I GUESS, I'M YIELDED. (LAUGH) [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: YEAH, YEAH, I'M SORRY, SENATOR SULLIVAN. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: OKAY. WELL, FIRST OF ALL, TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE
BACKGROUND ON HOW THE PROGRAM WILL WORK, FIRST OF ALL, TO BE
ELIGIBLE, THERE NEEDS TO BE A FINANCIAL NEED AND SO THEY HAVE TO BE AT
A CERTAIN LEVEL OF INCOME TO EVEN QUALIFY. AND THEN THE COORDINATING
COMMISSION PROPOSES... [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR LARSON: WHAT LEVEL IS THAT? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY PERCENT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: IS THAT ON THEIR THE FAFSA, LIKE THEIR PARENTS, LIKE WHEN THEY FILL OUT THE FAFSA, THEIR PARENTS HAVE TO BE 250 PERCENT OF THOSE INDIVIDUALLY, OR...? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, YOU'RE ASKING ME A QUESTION THAT I THINK WILL BE DETAILED BY THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WHO IS GOING TO ADMINISTER THIS PROGRAM. THEY WILL DEVELOP THE RULES AND REGULATIONS BY WHICH THIS GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL OPERATE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: OKAY, BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, THAT FAFSA IF THEY'RE...IT'S CONCERNING IN A SENSE BECAUSE ALMOST EVERY INDIVIDUAL... [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE NEXT IN THE QUEUE AND THIS IS YOUR THIRD TIME. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. ALMOST EVERY INDIVIDUAL, LIKE WHEN I WAS COMING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL I DEFINITELY WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDER 250 PERCENT, BUT WHEN I FILLED OUT MY FAFSA TO GO TO MY UNIVERSITY, OBVIOUSLY, MY PARENTS' INCOME PUSHED ME OVER THAT, SO MY CONCERN IS THERE, YOU KNOW. BUT BACK TO THE...SO THEY QUALIFY. WHAT HAPPENS IF...WHO DECIDES, KIND OF, YEAH, SO IF THEY MEET THE INCOME REQUIREMENTS, DO THEY AUTOMATICALLY GET IT? IS IT LIKE A SCHOLARSHIP? IF THE WHOLE \$1.5 MILLION ISN'T USED, WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? DO YOU PLAN ON IT BEING REAPPROPRIATED? I'LL JUST LET YOU KIND OF TALK ABOUT THAT FOR A LITTLE BIT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES, I WILL. THANK YOU, SENATOR LARSON. WELL, FIRST OF ALL, AS I INDICATED EARLIER, PART OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS WILL BE COORDINATED BY THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. SO, SOME OF THE QUESTIONS AS FAR AS THE SPECIFIC DETAILS, I CAN'T ANSWER BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE COORDINATING COMMISSION AND THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES THAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN THIS. SECONDLY, IF YOU RECALL WHEN I INTRODUCED AM1307, A CERTAIN AMOUNT, \$30,000 TO BE EXACT, IS GOING TO BE DEDICATED FOR AND WHICH IS REQUIRED IN THIS GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BE USED FOR A TRACKING SYSTEM THAT WILL, IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE BEING SERVED? WHERE THEY...AT? WHAT KINDS OF PROGRAMS ARE THEY INVOLVED IN? ALL OF THAT IS GOING TO BE...WE'RE GOING TO KNOW THAT BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO TRACK THIS. SO, IN TERMS OF THE DOLLARS THAT MAY NOT GET USED, WELL, FIRST OF ALL, MORE THAN LIKELY, BECAUSE WE HAVE SUCH NEEDS IN THESE AREAS, BOTH FROM THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE AS WELL AS THE EMPLOYER PERSPECTIVE, I'M QUITE SURE THAT THE DOLLARS WILL BE USED. BUT IF NOT, THEY'RE STILL ALLOCATED TO THIS PROGRAM, SO THEY WILL STAY THERE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THROUGH THIS BUDGET CYCLE. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES, YES. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: AND I GUESS MY CONCERN IS, AS SENATOR BOLZ UNDERSTANDS, THEY'RE THERE FOR THIS BUDGET CYCLE, THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WILL REAPPROPRIATE THEM IF THEY'RE UNUSED. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: BUT, SENATOR LARSON, I THINK THAT THEY WILL STAY IN THAT FUND THAT WE ARE CREATING THROUGH LB519. SO IF THEY ARE UNUSED, THEY WILL STAY THERE FOR THE NEXT CYCLE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: OKAY. I KNOW THE LOTTERY FUNDS HAVE BEEN INCREASING AND YOU'RE MOVING THIS TO PERCENTAGES. OBVIOUSLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW FAST THEY'VE BEEN INCREASING. AGAIN, I'VE STUDIED THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST QUITE A BIT. OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE TAKING \$1.5 MILLION HERE. ARE YOU CUTTING CERTAIN THINGS OUT OF WHAT USE TO GET LOTTERY FUND DOLLARS? LIKE PROGRAMS OR FUNDS THAT USED TO GET LOTTERY DOLLARS THAT NO

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

LONGER DO GET LOTTERY DOLLARS BECAUSE OF LB519. YOU KIND OF GET WHAT I'M ASKING? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER WHEN I INTRODUCED LB519, I GAVE QUITE A DETAILED HISTORY OF THE LOTTERY FUNDS FROM WHEN THEY...ITS INCEPTION AND HOW IT HAS CHANGED AND EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS, AND HOW THE INTERIM STUDY THAT THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE EMBARKED ON THIS LAST SUMMER RESULTED IN RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THERE SHOULD BE NEW USES BECAUSE WE CHOSE THROUGH LEGISLATION A COUPLE OF YEARS TO GO TO SUNSET ALL THOSE EXISTING USES OF THE LOTTERY DOLLARS, AND THIS WAS OUR ANSWER FOR NEW USES GOING FORWARD. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU. AND I DON'T HAVE THE BILL RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME. THERE ARE TWO FUNDS IN HERE, ONE GOES TO TEACHERS THAT ARE GOING TO GET MASTER'S, AND ANOTHER ONE IS A LOAN REPAYMENT. WHAT ARE THE PERCENTAGES ON THOSE? [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I THINK THOSE ARE 10 PERCENT. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: TEN PERCENT EACH? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WE'RE CHECKING ON THAT. I USED TO KNOW THESE OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD WHEN I INTRODUCED THE BILL, BUT, YOU KNOW, SO MANY THINGS ARE... [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: NO, NO, I UNDERSTAND. I DEFINITELY UNDERSTAND RIGHT WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM. A ROUGH ESTIMATE IS PERFECTLY FINE. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: TEN PERCENT...LET'S SEE, 8 PERCENT TO THE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING CASH FUND. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: AND THAT ONE IS TO GET A MASTER'S? [LB519]

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Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR SULLIVAN: IT'S SPLIT...NO, THE FIRST ONE GOES TO THE EXISTING TEACHERS WHO ARE...AND WE'VE CLARIFIED THAT. IT'S NOT JUST GETTING A MASTER'S. IT'S GETTING AN ENDORSEMENT IN A SHORTAGE AREA, SO WE'VE ENLARGED THAT A LITTLE BIT. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: OKAY. YEAH, AND THEN THERE'S ALSO THE FUND THAT GOES TO THE LOAN REPAYMENT, CORRECT? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THEY'RE BOTH FORGIVABLE LOANS, FOR BOTH EXISTING TEACHERS AND THOSE... [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: ARE THEY SEPARATE FUNDS, THOUGH, OR IS IT ALL ONE FUND? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: IT'S UNDER THE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ACT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I WONDERED IF SENATOR SULLIVAN WOULD YIELD FOR SOME MORE QUESTIONS. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: OF COURSE. [LB519]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: SENATOR, YOU'VE ANSWERED A BUNCH OF EXPENDITURE QUESTIONS FOR SENATOR LARSON. I'D RATHER FOCUS ON THE FISCAL NOTE OF THE BILL AND PERHAPS YOU CAN EXPLAIN TO ME HOW SOME OF THE NUMBERS ARE DERIVED. FIRST QUESTION, THE LOTTERY GENERATES ABOUT \$16.6 MILLION A YEAR, CORRECT? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: OKAY. THE TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR LB519 IS RIGHT AT \$45 MILLION. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: RUN THAT BY ME AGAIN, PLEASE. [LB519]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, IT'S SHOWING ON THE FISCAL NOTE THAT THE OVERALL TOTAL FUNDS EXPENDED FOR LB519 IS \$45 MILLION, JUST UNDER \$45 MILLION. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I'M NOT SURE WHERE YOU'RE GETTING THAT. [LB519]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: IT'S OFF OF THE PINK FISCAL NOTE. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: ARE YOU LOOKING AT LB519? [LB519]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I SURE AM. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE SECOND FISCAL NOTE, THE REVISION OF...BASED ON APRIL 10... [LB519]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I GUESS I'M LOOKING AT THE FIRST...PERHAPS I'M LOOKING AT THE FIRST FISCAL NOTE, SO PERHAPS THAT'S MY ISSUE. I'LL GET THE REVISED FISCAL NOTE AND COME BACK IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BOLZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I JUST WANTED TO OFFER A LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM WOULD BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS, WHETHER THOSE ARE YOUNG STUDENTS OR RETURNING STUDENTS WHO HAVE A FAMILY INCOME OF UNDER 250 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE. THEY WOULD HAVE TO ILLUSTRATE THAT THEY HAVE THE ACADEMIC CAPACITY TO COMPLETE THEIR PROGRAM OF STUDY DEPENDING ON THE NECESSITY OF THAT PARTICULAR PROGRAM. IT MIGHT BE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA IN ONE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CASE, OR PASSAGE OF A CERTAIN MATH TEST IN ANOTHER CASE. THESE PROGRAMS ARE DIRECTED AT HIGH-DEMAND JOBS AND THEY ARE HIGH-DEMAND JOBS THAT WERE IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE BATTELLE STUDY, WHICH IS THE STUDY THAT OUR DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPLETED TO TRY TO IDENTIFY CAREERS THAT HAVE A GAP, THAT HAVE A NEED IN OUR STATE. SO, THE SHORT-TERM CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS CURRENTLY DON'T QUALIFY FOR ANY OTHER FINANCIAL AID AND THIS WOULD FILL THAT GAP, NOT ONLY FILL THE GAP FOR WORKERS, BUT FILL THE GAP IN THE NEED FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR FOLKS WHO ARE PURSUING A SHORT-TERM CREDENTIAL. AND ACTUALLY, SENATOR LARSON, ONE OF THE INSPIRATIONS OF THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION IS A MANUFACTURING BOOT CAMP THAT HAPPENED IN YOUR NECK OF THE WOODS IN THE NORFOLK AREA. IT'S A SHORT-TERM PROGRAM THAT AN INDIVIDUAL COULD GO THROUGH AND STACK UP PROGRAMS LIKE THIS TO EVENTUALLY RECEIVE AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN THE MANUFACTURING FIELD. BUT THE BOOT CAMP PUTS THEM IN A POSITION TO IMMEDIATELY GET A JOB IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WHICH IS GROWING IN THE NORFOLK AND COLUMBUS AREA AND PROVIDES SOME SPECIFIC SKILL SETS. SO, I'D BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY OTHER QUESTIONS. I JUST WANTED TO PROVIDE A LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION FOR THE BODY ABOUT THE INTENT OF THE PROGRAM AND ITS TRUE VALUE NOT ONLY FOR STUDENTS IN THE STATE, BUT ALSO FOR OUR NEBRASKA INDUSTRIES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR KINTNER: MR. PRESIDENT, I GENERALLY, I GUESS, SUPPORT LB519 AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IF SENATOR...CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES, I WILL. [LB519]

SENATOR KINTNER: IN THERE, ARE WE PAYING FOR MASTER'S DEGREES FOR TEACHERS, IN THERE? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: IT'S CONCEIVABLE THAT WE COULD UNDER THE EXCELLENCE...ENHANCING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ACT. BUT AS I INDICATED TO SENATOR LARSON, WE CHANGED THAT A LITTLE BIT UNDER LB519, AS

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

AMENDED, TO INDICATE THAT WE CAN SUPPORT LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR TEACHERS WHO ARE GETTING ENDORSEMENTS IN SHORTAGE AREAS. SO, THE FOCUS IS MORE ON THAT AND CLEARLY IT RESTS IN THAT RESPECT A DECISION WITH THE DISTRICT AND THAT EDUCATOR GETTING SUPPORT FOR SOMETHING THAT'S NEEDED IN THAT DISTRICT WHERE HE OR SHE IS TEACHING. [LB519]

SENATOR KINTNER: DO ALL...OR CAN ALL DISTRICTS GET THIS, OR IS IT FIRST-COME FIRST SERVE? OR WHAT'S...HOW IS IT ALLOCATED OUT? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I THINK IT'S ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS. [LB519]

SENATOR KINTNER: ALL RIGHT. WELL, THANK YOU, CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN, APPRECIATE IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: AGAIN AS INDICATED, THIS SIMPLY REMOVES THE SPECIFICATION OF 5 PERCENT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND IT PUTS IT IN THE HANDS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IN THE FUTURE. I URGE ADOPTION OF AM1307, THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE AMENDMENT TO LB519 BE ADOPTED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB519]

CLERK: 34 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF SENATOR SULLIVAN'S AMENDMENT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED. [LB519]

CLERK: SENATOR DAVIS WOULD MOVE TO AMEND WITH AM1376. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1277-1280.) [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR DAVIS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. THE AMENDMENT I'M INTRODUCING THIS MORNING MODIFIES LB519 TO RESTORE A PORTION OF THE CURRENT FUNDING FOR DISTANCE LEARNING. I SERVED ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MY FIRST TWO YEARS IN THE LEGISLATURE AND SAT IN ON DISCUSSIONS LAST SUMMER ABOUT HOW LOTTERY FUNDS ARE USED TO SUPPORT NEBRASKA SCHOOLS. DISTANCE LEARNING IS ONE OF THE PROGRAMS CURRENTLY FUNDED BY THE REVENUE AND MANY RURAL SCHOOLS HAVE COME TO RELY ON IT IN THEIR EARNEST EFFORTS TO PROVIDE A BROAD CURRICULUM. DISTANCE LEARNING ENABLES SCHOOLS TO SEND AND RECEIVE CLASSES OVER INTERACTIVE TELEVISION AND MORE RECENTLY THROUGH SKYPE AND HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS. WITHOUT TOOLS LIKE DISTANCE LEARNING, IT IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OFFER A DIVERSE EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM IN MOST OF NEBRASKA'S RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHICH ARE TOO SMALL TO HIRE FULL-TIME STAFF TO TEACH ONE OR TWO CLASSES. TO INCENTIVIZE THE USE OF DISTANCE LEARNING, THE STATE HAS TRADITIONALLY USED LOTTERY FUNDS TO AUGMENT LOCAL RESOURCES BY OFFERING A CARROT TO SENDING AND RECEIVING SCHOOLS THAT USE THE TECHNOLOGY. THE FUNDING COULD HELP COVER THE COST OF HIRING AN AIDE TO SUPERVISE THE DL ROOM OR THE COST TO REPLACE EQUIPMENT WHICH WEARS OUT OR FAILS. IT HAS BEEN A USEFUL TOOL TO ENABLE RURAL AND URBAN SCHOOLS TO COOPERATE OVER LONG DISTANCES ACROSS DIFFERENT SCHEDULES AND CALENDARS AND HAS RESULTED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF CLASSES BEING TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE. AM1376 CARVES OUT AN ESTIMATED HALF A MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE INNOVATIVE COMPETITIVE GRANT CATEGORY TO MAINTAIN A PORTION OF THE CURRENT \$1.5 MILLION FUNDING FOR DISTANCE LEARNING. UNDER THE AMENDMENT, DL FUNDING WILL COMPRISE 3 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL LOTTERY FUNDS WHILE THE INNOVATIVE COMPETITIVE GRANT CATEGORY WILL NOW COMPRISE 17 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL, OR \$2,703,911. THIS IS STILL A REDUCTION OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE CURRENT FUNDING FOR THE DL CATEGORY. WHILE I DO NOT THINK THAT \$500,000 IS ENOUGH FUNDING FOR DISTANCE LEARNING, I REALIZE THAT THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HAS SPOKEN AND I WANT TO RESPECT THE COMMITTEE'S PROCESS AND NOT MODIFY THEIR DECISIONS TOO EXTENSIVELY. I HOPE THE LEGISLATURE WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A WORTHY PROGRAM WHICH DIRECTLY BENEFITS STUDENTS IN AT LEAST HALF OF THE DISTRICTS IN THE STATE AND SHOULD NOT SIMPLY BE DEFUNDED. WITH THE DEARTH OF TEEOSA FUNDING TO MANY OF THE RURAL SCHOOLS RECEIVING THESE FUNDS, AND THE RELENTLESS PRESSURE FROM TAXPAYERS ON THEIR LOCAL BOARDS TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, ELIMINATING THESE FUNDS WILL SIMPLY MEAN

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

THAT FEWER STUDENTS ARE BEING EXPOSED TO ADVANCED PHYSICS, CALCULUS, FRENCH, ADVANCED MUSIC THEORY, OR THE LIKE. THIS MODEST REQUEST WILL AT LEAST PROVIDE SOME FUNDS TO REPLACE OUTDATED, DAMAGED EQUIPMENT, EVEN IF THE SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE DON'T FULLY COMPENSATE THE DISTRICTS FOR THE ENTIRE COST OF PROVIDING THE SERVICE. SENATOR BAKER'S LB402 HAD PROVIDED JUST OVER \$500,000 TO THESE FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND. THAT BILL WAS ATTACHED TO SENATOR KOLOWSKI'S LB343 AND IT FAILED ON THE FLOOR LAST WEEK, LEAVING NO FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR DISTANCE LEARNING. I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS GOOD POLICY AND URGE THIS MODEST RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF NEBRASKA'S RURAL SCHOOLS. WHILE THE IDEA MAY NO LONGER BE A NEW IDEA, IT IS STILL A VERY INNOVATIVE TOOL FOR DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE A RICH EDUCATION, AFFORDABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO NEED WIDE EXPOSURE IN THE COMMITTEE GOAL OF EVERY STUDENT EDUCATED FOR SUCCESS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519 LB402 LB343]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WOULD SENATOR SULLIVAN YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. CONTINUING ON A LITTLE BIT ON LB519 AND GOING THROUGH THE E&R AMENDMENT, I'M LOOKING ON PAGE...WHAT'S STARTING ON PAGE 8, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH THE COMPETITIVE INNOVATIVE GRANT PROGRAM AND IT CONTINUES ON THROUGH PAGE 10. AND I WAS NOT ACTIVE ON LB519 THE FIRST TIME IT WENT THROUGH. I WAS DOWNSTAIRS. MY...I THINK MY THREE-YEAR-OLD WAS HERE AND I WAS HELPING BABY-SIT. SO, I APOLOGIZE FOR THOSE FEW HOURS THAT I WASN'T HERE. CAN YOU EXPLAIN THAT A LITTLE BIT TO ME? WHAT EXACTLY THAT PROGRAM IS MEANT TO DO AND IS IT NEW OR HAS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BEEN DOING IT ALREADY? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, FIRST OF ALL, I'D SAY THAT IT IS RETURNING TO WHAT THE ORIGINAL INTENT WAS OF THE LOTTERY FUNDS TO BEGIN WITH. IT WAS ORIGINALLY CALLED THE EDUCATION INNOVATION FUND. AND THE IDEA

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

WAS TO USE THESE LOTTERY DOLLARS FOR JUST THAT TO ALLOW DISTRICTS TO COME UP WITH INNOVATIVE, EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES. AND THEY COULD TRY OUT SOME NEW IDEAS AND ACCESS THESE LOTTERY DOLLARS TO DO THAT. AND THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT WE'RE DOING WITH THESE INNOVATION GRANTS THAT WE PROPOSE TO USE...HAVE LOTTERY DOLLAR SUPPORT. AND ORIGINALLY WE WERE ALLOCATING...WELL, FIRST OF ALL, I SHOULD BACK UP. THE INTERIM STUDY IN LAST YEAR'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE, THROUGH THE INTERIM STUDY, DECIDED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE LOTTERY DOLLARS SHOULD BE USED FOR JUST THAT. WELL, THE NEW EDUCATION COMMITTEE DETERMINED THAT THEY WANTED TO TAKE A DIFFERENT APPROACH AND THEN IT WAS FURTHER AMENDED ON THE FLOOR. SO, AS IT NOW STANDS WITH LB519A, AS AMENDED, EXCUSE ME, 20 PERCENT OF THE ALLOCATED LOTTERY DOLLARS WILL BE USED FOR THESE INNOVATION GRANTS. IT'S AGAIN UP TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP THE PARAMETERS FOR HOW THESE GRANTS WILL...WILL BE DEVELOPED. BUT THEN SCHOOLS WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR THESE GRANTS, AND THEN OVER TIME WOULD BE ABLE TO USE THOSE DOLLARS. I THINK THERE'S SOME...THERE'S PROBABLY A MAXIMUM AMOUNT THAT A GRANT CAN SUPPORT. I DON'T KNOW THAT RIGHT OFFHAND. BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT IT PERTAINS OR CONTAINS AN EVALUATION COMPONENT. AND THESE GRANTS, WHATEVER THEY MIGHT BE IN TERMS OF INNOVATIVE PRACTICES, WOULD NOT ONLY HAVE TO BE EVALUATED AS PART OF THE GRANT, BUT THEN WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO BE REPLICATED SO GOING FORWARD, IT COULD BE HELD UP AS A BEST PRACTICE FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS. AND THAT'S THE END OF THE GAME FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME TO LOOK AT WHAT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED THROUGH THESE INNOVATION GRANTS AND THEY WILL DETERMINE IF THESE CAN BE HELD UP AS BEST PRACTICES. AND THEN THEY WOULD DEVELOP THE PROCEDURES FOR A BEST PRACTICES ALLOWANCE THAT WOULD BE PART OF TEEOSA, SO THAT IT COULD BE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OVER TIME FOR WHAT STARTED OUT TO BE AN INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE BUT COULD BE A BEST PRACTICE FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS GOING FORWARD. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: SO, I APPRECIATE THAT EXPLANATION AND IT WAS A GOOD ONE. YOU SAID 20 PERCENT, SO THAT'S...IF THE MATH IN MY HEAD IS GOOD, THAT'S \$3.2 MILLION, ROUGHLY, OVER...PER YEAR ON THAT. WHAT...IT JUST SEEMS A LITTLE BROAD. ARE WE...ESSENTIALLY, LIKE... [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR LARSON: ...WE'RE JUST LEAVING IT UP TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DECIDE WHICH INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS THAT THEY'RE GOING TO FUND, CORRECT? KIND OF, THAT WE DON'T SET A GUIDELINE IN TERMS OF WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES AND NO. IT CERTAINLY HAS TO BE INNOVATION, IT HAS TO BE RELATED TO EDUCATION, AND I THINK THAT IT WILL ALSO BE TIED IN, IN PART, TO THE VISIONING PROCESS THAT THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HAD THIS LAST YEAR WHERE WE IDENTIFIED VISION, MISSION, AND SEVERAL BROAD GOALS. AND I THINK THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE USING THAT, SORT OF AS A STEPPING OFF POINT, TO LOOK AT THE KINDS OF GRANT APPLICATIONS THAT WILL BE COMING IN FROM SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNITS. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: WELL, I APPRECIATE THAT. I KIND OF SEE THIS AS ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT... [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) THOSE IN THE QUEUE ARE SENATOR SULLIVAN, BAKER, SCHEER, AND LARSON. SENATOR SULLIVAN. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I HAVE TO STAND IN OPPOSITION TO SENATOR DAVIS' AMENDMENT. I CERTAINLY APPLAUD HIS PASSION AND CONCERN, AND RIGHTFULLY SO, FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY IN OUR SPARSELY POPULATED AND RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS. AND BEING A RURAL SENATOR, I'M SENSITIVE TO THAT. BUT I'M ALSO SENSITIVE TO THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE BY THE CURRENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE AS WELL AS THE PREVIOUS ONE AND OF WHICH SENATOR DAVIS WAS A MEMBER. AND I THINK BEFORE HE WAS A MEMBER OF THIS BODY, THIS BODY TOOK THE...THE STEP TO SUNSET ALL THE EXISTING, AT THAT TIME, USES OF LOTTERY DOLLARS. SO, THERE WAS AMPLE ANTICIPATION AND WARNING, IF YOU WILL, THAT THERE WERE GOING TO BE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN HOW THE LOTTERY DOLLARS WERE USED. I WILL ALSO REMIND YOU OF WHEN THE EDUCATION INNOVATION FUND WAS CREATED A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, THE INITIAL INTENT WAS TO USE THESE DOLLARS, NOT TO SUSTAIN ONGOING PROGRAMS, BUT TO SPUR INNOVATION. AND THAT IS WHAT THE PREVIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE DETERMINED WAS AN

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

APPROPRIATE USE OF LOTTERY DOLLARS. NOW, I WILL SAY THAT THEIR RECOMMENDATION AT THAT TIME WAS TO MOVE ALL THOSE EXISTING USES OF LOTTERY DOLLARS TO THE GENERAL FUND. SO, WE WERE IN SUPPORT OF THE IDEA, BUT NOT SUCCESSFUL IN SEEING THAT HAPPEN WITH THE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE'S DECISION IN WHAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUDGET WAS GOING TO LOOK LIKE. HOWEVER, KEEP IN MIND THAT DISTANCE EDUCATION FUNDING WAS PUT INTO LOTTERY DOLLARS AS DISTANCE EDUCATION INCENTIVES, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DISTRICTS TO TRY SOMETHING. IT WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE AN ONGOING SOURCE OF FUNDING. NOW, I WILL REMIND YOU ALSO THAT WHEN WE HAD THE DEBATE ON LB343, THERE WAS AN AMENDMENT IN THERE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION. WHEN THAT DISCUSSION FIRST TOOK PLACE, WHETHER IT WAS THE INITIAL COMPONENTS OF LB343 OR TO INCLUDE DISTANCE EDUCATION, I SAID, OKAY, FINE, BUT LET'S MAKE IT PART OF TEEOSA SO THAT WE CAN HAVE ONGOING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR IT. I WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN THAT. SO, I FALL BACK ON REMINDING YOU THAT WE NEVER INTENDED FOR THESE LOTTERY DOLLARS TO BE AN ONGOING SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR ANY KIND OF A PROGRAM. WE'RE GOING TO REVISIT THIS UNDER LB519 AS AMENDED, WE'RE GOING TO REVISIT THESE USES IN A FEW YEARS. ARE DISTRICTS DOING A LOT OF DISTANT EDUCATION? ABSOLUTELY, AND I APPLAUD THEM FOR THAT. SO, MY QUESTION IS, ARE THEY DOING IT JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE GETTING MONEY FOR IT, AND WILL THEY STOP DOING IT IF WE PULL THE INCENTIVES FROM THIS BILL...FROM LB519, AS IT WOULD BE AMENDED UNDER AM1376? WE'RE HERE TO MAKE POLICY AND MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS. AND THE CURRENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE DECIDED HOW THEY BELIEVED IT WAS APPROPRIATE USE OF FUNDS UNDER LB519 AS AMENDED. I THINK THE DISCUSSION ABOUT DISTANCE EDUCATION, DISTANCE LEARNING IN THE STATE IS ONE THAT WE NEED TO HAVE AND PERHAPS WE NEED TO IDENTIFY IT MORE OF A HIGHER PRIORITY. BUT THE \$500,000 THAT... [LB519 LB343]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: ...WOULD BE IDENTIFIED IN AM1376 CERTAINLY WILL NOT MEET ALL THE NEEDS. AND I WILL TELL YOU THAT THERE ARE PLENTY OF SCHOOLS THAT ARE DOING DISTANCE EDUCATION IN A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT WAYS THAT CURRENTLY AREN'T RECEIVING ANY OF THESE INCENTIVE DOLLARS. AND ALSO, JUST AS ANOTHER ASIDE, FOR THE SENDING DISTRICTS, THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO CHARGE FOR THOSE COURSES THAT THEY ARE SENDING OUT. SO, AGAIN, I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE DOING THIS, BUT I HAVE TO STAND IN DISAGREEMENT WITH SENATOR DAVIS AND NOT IN SUPPORT OF

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

AM1376 BECAUSE I THINK PARTLY IT DEPARTS FROM THE INTENTIONS OF WHAT WE HAD DECIDED LB519 SHOULD LOOK LIKE, AND I THINK THAT IT BEGS FOR A LARGER DISCUSSION AT ANOTHER TIME OF HOW WE WANT TO SUPPORT DISTANCE EDUCATION AND LEARNING IN THE STATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BAKER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR BAKER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SENATOR DAVIS, WOULD YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR DAVIS, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB519]

SENATOR DAVIS: I WILL. [LB519]

SENATOR BAKER: SENATOR DAVIS, YOU AND I TALKED OFF THE MIKE A WHILE BACK. YOU KNOW, I HAD CARRIED LB402 ON BEHALF OF A ISSUE OF COORDINATING COUNCIL WITH THE GOAL IN MIND OF PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR SENDING DISTRICTS THAT DID GET ROLLED UP INTO SENATOR KOLOWSKI'S LB343, WHICH HAD A VOTE OF 24 TO 11, 24 YES, 11 NO, AND 9 UNDECIDED, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. SO, ONE MORE YES VOTE AND WE WOULDN'T BE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION TODAY, PROBABLY. BUT WE DIDN'T. SO MY QUESTION TO YOU, WOULD YOU BE AMENABLE IN YOUR AMENDMENT TO...AMENDMENT TO YOUR AMENDMENT, THAT WOULD DESIGNATE ONLY SENDING DISTRICTS FOR THIS INCENTIVE FUNDING FOR DISTANCE LEARNING? [LB519 LB402 LB343]

SENATOR DAVIS: YOU KNOW, SENATOR BAKER, I WOULD LOVE TO SEE FUNDING GO TO RECEIVING DISTRICTS AND SENDING DISTRICTS. BUT IN LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSION THAT WE HAD EARLIER, I CERTAINLY WOULD BE AMENABLE TO JUST HAVING IT GO TO THE SENDING DISTRICTS BECAUSE TO ME IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT THIS FUNDING STREAM BE KEPT OUT THERE. SO, YES, I WOULD, IF YOU WANTED TO MAKE THAT AMENDMENT, I WOULD BE GLAD TO SUPPORT THAT. [LB519]

SENATOR BAKER: WELL, THANK YOU. AND BEING STILL A NEW SENATOR AND GREEN, I NEED TO GET SOME ADVICE ON EXACTLY HOW TO DO THAT. THAT'S HOW I WOULD TEND TO PROCEED. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHEER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN THE DISTANCE EDUCATION. I DO THINK THERE IS A VOID...NOT NECESSARILY A VOID, BUT CERTAINLY AN EXPLICIT NEED FOR RURAL DISTRICTS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AND RECEIVE LONG DISTANCE EDUCATION. THE ONLY REASON I'M SPEAKING IS THE PART OF THE FUNDS THAT SENATOR DAVIS IS TRYING TO EXTRACT THE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND FROM ARE COMING FROM THE K-12 INNOVATION FUNDS WHICH WERE INCREASED LAST TIME. I WILL TELL YOU THAT I AM IN FAVOR OF AM1376. HOWEVER, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT I WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF ANY AMENDMENT TO IT AND WOULD NOT SUPPORT SENATOR BAKER'S AMENDMENT TO ONLY THOSE THAT ARE TRANSMITTING AND NOT RECEIVING. I THINK WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT QUALITY...HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION VIA DISTANCE LEARNING TO RURAL COMMUNITIES AND DISTRICTS REMAIN AVAILABLE TO ALL, NOT JUST SOME. WHEN YOU TAKE THE FUNDS AWAY FROM THOSE RECEIVING DISTRICTS, YOU ALSO HAVE TO REALIZE IT COST MONEY TO HAVE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT TO RECEIVE THE LONG DISTANCE TRANSMISSIONS. AS WELL, THEY HAVE TO HAVE THE PROCTORS AND THE AIDES AVAILABLE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE STUDENTS ARE ON TASK AND SO FORTH. SO, I THINK THERE IS A NEED ON BOTH ENDS OF THIS. I WOULD NOT BE SUPPORTIVE OF AN AMENDMENT TO AM1376, BUT AS IT STANDS, I DO UNDERSTAND THE NEED. I DO UNDERSTAND SENATOR SULLIVAN'S COMMENTS, BUT USING HER COMMENTS, THIS IS SET UP TO SUNSET IN FIVE YEARS. AND PERHAPS SOMETIME IN THE MEDIAN, IN BETWEEN THERE, WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADJUST THAT OR BRING THAT BACK TO SOME OTHER TYPE OF FUNDING. AND IF SO, THIS COULD ALWAYS BE SUNSETTED OUT OF THE LOTTERY FUNDS AND GO BACK JUST TO THE INNOVATIVE FUNDS FOR K-12. THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I...I'M REALLY...I CAN UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. I THINK THAT AT \$65 A CREDIT HOUR, YOU KNOW, I START TO QUESTION ESPECIALLY AT 250 PERCENT OF POVERTY. I'D PROBABLY PREFER THAT TO BE DOWN A LITTLE FARTHER, CLOSER TO 150 PERCENT TO ENSURE THAT THOSE NEEDIEST INDIVIDUALS THAT \$65 A CREDIT HOUR IS A LARGE SUM WOULD BE AT, INSTEAD OF THAT 250 PERCENT HOWEVER. BUT I CAN...I CAN AT LEAST UNDERSTAND WHERE SENATOR BOLZ IS COMING FROM THAT AND UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE WANTS AND SINCE THIS IS CASH FUNDS, I UNDERSTAND THAT. AS I CONTINUE TO

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

LOOK AT THE INNOVATION PART OF IT ON PAGES 8 THROUGH 10 ON THE E&R AMENDMENT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND PARTIALLY WHY WE'RE GOING TO BE PUTTING \$3.2 MILLION A YEAR INTO SOMETHING THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHOULD BE DOING ANYWAY. SENATOR SULLIVAN TALKS ABOUT, KIND OF SPEAKING TO SENATOR DAVIS' AMENDMENT SPECIFICALLY, YOU KNOW, ARE OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS JUST DOING THIS DISTANCE LEARNING BECAUSE THEY ARE GETTING MONEY FOR IT CURRENTLY. WELL, MAYBE. BUT WHEN WE PUT \$3.2 MILLION A YEAR INTO WHAT IS CALLED INNOVATION AND HOPE FOR BEST PRACTICES AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TYPE OF INNOVATION WE'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO BE INVESTING IN--THAT'S MORE UP TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION--IT STARTS TO WORRY ME BECAUSE IT KIND OF MAKES IT SOUND LIKE EDUCATION ISN'T, YOU KNOW, HOW DO I WANT TO SAY IT, THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE JUST GOING TO TRY TO GO GET THE GRANT MONEY JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE GETTING PAID FOR IT. JUST LIKE SENATOR SULLIVAN IS SAYING, WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH SENATOR DAVIS' STUFF? YOU KNOW, I TALKED ABOUT, SENATOR SULLIVAN AND I BOTH COME FROM AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS AS DOES SENATOR DAVIS, AND I MAKE LIGHT TO THE SENSE THAT FARMING IS A BUSINESS. YOU HAVE TO TREAT IT LIKE A BUSINESS AND YOU HAVE TO INNOVATE AND YOU HAVE TO CONTINUE TO INNOVATE OR YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT. I DON'T SEE WHY EDUCATION SHOULD BE ANY DIFFERENT. SO I UNDERSTAND THE WANT FOR INNOVATION, BUT FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE TO PAY US TO EVEN LOOK AT INNOVATION SEEMS RIDICULOUS. I THINK YOU CAN LOOK AT USING LOTTERY DOLLARS, POSSIBLY, TO PROVIDE WHAT I WOULD CALL BONUSES FOR TEACHERS THAT ARE OFFERING...OR THAT STUDENTS SHOW LARGE IMPROVEMENTS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR TO THE END OF THE YEAR, OR USE THIS FUND TO PAY TEACHERS THAT ARE TEACHING IN EITHER UNDERSERVED AREAS OR IN SPECIALTIES THAT THERE AREN'T A LOT OF PEOPLE TEACHING IN, SUCH AS MATH AND SCIENCE, USE THAT TO SUPPLEMENT THE BASE PAY THAT'S NEGOTIATED BY THE UNION. I THINK THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT WAYS THAT WE CAN INNOVATE EDUCATION AND INCENTIVIZE EDUCATION AND INCENTIVIZE TEACHERS TO GROW THAT WE'RE NOT DOING. AND I THINK SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE JUST GOING TO TRY TO CREATE THE... [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: ...NEXT NEW PILOT PROJECT OR SOME SMALL THING THAT THEY KNOW THAT THEY CAN GO TO THE CERTAIN STANDARDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND GO GET A TWO OR THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR GRANT TO DO WHAT? WE DON'T KNOW. WE'RE NOT

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SPECIFYING WHAT THIS IS. WE'RE SPECIFYING SOMETHING INNOVATIVE. THAT'S AWFUL BROAD. LIKE I SAID, I UNDERSTAND THE INTENT OF THE COMMITTEE, BUT I HAVE THE SAME FEAR THAT, YOU KNOW, SENATOR SULLIVAN EXPRESSED WITH SENATOR DAVIS' AMENDMENT. I THINK THAT THESE SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE JUST GOING TO PROCESS A GRANT APPLICATION TO GET EXTRA DOLLARS. AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S NECESSARILY...NECESSARILY RIGHT BECAUSE THESE SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHOULD BE LOOKING TO INNOVATE ANYWAY ON THEIR OWN. IN AGRICULTURE, WE HAVE TO. IN EVERY OTHER BUSINESS, WE HAVE TO. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR KINTNER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'D LIKE TO YIELD MY TIME TO SENATOR LARSON. HE WAS SAYING SOMETHING I THOUGHT WAS INTERESTING. I WANT TO HEAR THE REST OF IT. THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE YIELDED 4 MINUTES AND 45 SECONDS. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER. BACK TO THE CONCEPT, THE SCHOOLS NEED TO INNOVATE ON THEIR OWN. I THINK...I HAVE, AS I'VE STATED BEFORE, I HAVE A FATHER WHO'S A TEACHER, I HAVE A COUSIN WHO IS A TEACHER, A MOTHER THAT SITS ON A SCHOOL BOARD. THEY CONTINUALLY LOOK TO INNOVATE. I HAVE AN AUNT THAT WAS A TEACHER IN A ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE BY HOWELLS. TAUGHT AN OLYMPIC CHAMPION, ACTUALLY. I THINK THAT'S SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S DISTRICT, IF I'M RIGHT. BRAD VERING. I DON'T KNOW, THERE'S A LOT OF VERINGS UP THERE, HUH? BUT IT COMES BACK TO THE CONCEPT OF WE'RE PUTTING \$3.2 MILLION A YEAR INTO SOMETHING THAT FRANKLY WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S GOING TO DO, NO PARAMETERS. HERE YOU GO, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TELL THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO INNOVATE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT THAT MEANS. IT JUST HAS TO BE INNOVATIVE AND IN EDUCATION. AND THEN IF ONE OF THEM WORKS, THEN WE CAN CREATE WHATEVER THESE BEST PRACTICES ARE THAT CAN SCALE, THEN WE CAN SEND IT ACROSS. I'VE ALSO HEARD A LOT ABOUT THE CONCEPT

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

THAT, YOU KNOW, THIS CAME OUT, YOU KNOW, THE WHOLE PACKAGE IS AGAIN MORE TOWARDS INNOVATION. ACTUALLY, I HAVE A QUESTION ON SOME OF THE FUNDING. WILL SENATOR SULLIVAN YIELD? [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES, I WILL. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: ON THE TEACHER EDUCATION SIDE OF WHERE THEY CAN GET LOAN REPAYMENT FOR THE MASTER'S AS WELL AS...IF MY UNDERSTANDING IS CORRECT, THE LOAN REPAYMENT ON THE...EVEN ON THEIR BACHELOR'S DEGREES. YOU SAID THAT'S...IS IT 8 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL \$16 MILLION, OR IS THERE TWO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS THAT EACH GET 8 PERCENT? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: NO, IT'S 8 PERCENT DEDICATED TO THE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ACT. IT INCLUDES FUNDING...LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR TEACHERS, EXISTING TEACHERS, AND THOSE ENTERING THE PROFESSION. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: OKAY. SO 8 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL, SO THAT'S GOING TO BREAK DOWN TO WHAT, \$1.4 MILLION ROUGHLY? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: APPROXIMATELY, YES. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: IF MY MATH, AGAIN MY MATH IN MY HEAD IS CORRECT, IT MIGHT BE A SMIDGE OFF, 1.3, 2, SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WHAT WAS THE PERCENTAGE, WHAT IS THE CURRENT PERCENTAGE IF WE DON'T PASS LB519? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: LET'S SEE. THE CURRENT LAW UNCHANGED IS REQUIRING THE INITIAL \$400,000 TO BE ALLOCATED TO THE ATTRACTING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING PROGRAM. THAT'S TO THOSE WHO ARE ENTERING THE TEACHING PROGRAM. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: OKAY. AND IS THERE...AND THERE IS NO MONEY FOR THOSE RECEIVING MASTER'S, CURRENTLY, OR WORKING TOWARDS MASTER'S? [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES, YES, THERE IS SOME. I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH. I THINK IT'S...PARDON? ABOUT \$600,000. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: SO, YOU'RE LOOKING AT ROUGHLY ONLY A MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR BETWEEN THE TWO CURRENTLY? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YEAH, I THINK SO. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT WORKING ON PERCENTAGES, THEY WERE WORKING ON HARD NUMBERS, AND WE MOVED THE PERCENTAGE SINCE IT GROWS. ESSENTIALLY THE FUNDING HAS BEEN GROWING. SO, ABOUT A MILLION. AND WHEN THE...WHEN WAS THE CURRENT LAW WRITTEN? [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I'M NOT SURE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: PASSED INTO STATUTE, OR THIS PART OF THE LAW? THREE, FOUR YEARS? DO WE HAVE ANY IDEA? [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: NO, I DON'T. I'LL FIND THAT OUT FOR YOU, THOUGH. IT'S ONLY BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR A FEW YEARS. IT HASN'T REALLY BEEN GOING ON FOR VERY LONG. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: A FEW YEARS. IT HASN'T BEEN GOING ON THAT LONG. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: NO. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: JUDGING BY THE GROSS OF THOSE LOTTERY DOLLARS, I WOULD SAY THAT EVEN FOUR YEARS AGO, I THINK THEY WERE AT RIGHT AROUND \$12 MILLION A YEAR. SO... [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YOU KEEP...EXCUSE ME, SENATOR LARSON, BUT I DON'T KNOW THAT WE CAN BE SO CONFIDENT THAT THIS LOTTERY FUND IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO GROW. IT'S UNSTABLE. IT POPS UP AND DOWN. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR LARSON: IT DOES A LITTLE BIT WITH THE ECONOMY LIKE THAT.
[LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR DAVIS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I JUST WANT TO KIND OF COME BACK TO WHERE WE WERE WITH THIS DISTANCE LEARNING PART BECAUSE I THINK IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT FORGET THAT WE DO HAVE ALMOST 160, OR 150-SOME UNEQUALIZED DISTRICTS OUT THERE WHO DON'T GET ANY ASSISTANCE FROM ANYBODY ELSE. AND WE HAVE PROPERTY VALUES CONSTANTLY GOING UP. IF WE'RE GOING TO INCENTIVIZE EDUCATION IN RURAL NEBRASKA, THIS IS ONE WAY TO DO IT. AND, YOU KNOW, I'M REALLY TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT HOW WE NEED TO PUT EVERYTHING INTO TEEOSA BECAUSE WE'RE LEAVING OUT A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF OUR STATE WHERE THE TAXPAYERS ARE REALLY HURTING. THIS IS A VERY MODEST PROPOSAL TO TAKE \$500,000 BACK OUT OF THAT AND FUNNEL IT TOWARDS DISTANCE LEARNING. IT'S REALLY GOOD PUBLIC POLICY. IT'S NOT CHEAP AND IT'S NOT FREE FOR THOSE DISTRICTS TO PUT A DL PROCESS IN PLACE. IT COSTS THOSE SCHOOLS MONEY. AND, HONEST TO GOSH, THEY ARE REALLY AT THE POINT WHERE, YOU KNOW, THEY'RE CONSIDERING CUTTING LOTS OF PROGRAMS. SO, THIS IS GOOD POLICY. AND, YOU KNOW, I GUESS I...I REALLY RESENT HEARING THAT, YOU KNOW, THIS IS AN OLD OBSOLETE TECHNOLOGY THAT, YOU KNOW, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO JUST DO INNOVATIVE THINGS OUT OF THIS FUND, BECAUSE WE'RE NOT DOING ONLY INNOVATIVE THINGS. WE'RE DOING...WE'RE USING A LOT OF THIS MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS. THAT'S BEEN IN THERE FOR A LONG TIME. WE'RE USING IT FOR TEACHER EDUCATION. THAT'S BEEN IN THERE FOR A LONG TIME. SO, MOVING THE MONEY OUT OF DISTANCE LEARNING BECAUSE IT'S NOT VIEWED AS CURRENT IS JUST POOR PUBLIC POLICY. SO, I WOULD URGE YOU ALL TO MOVE MY AMENDMENT, VOTE FOR IT, SUPPORT IT, IT'S A MODEST PROPOSAL. WITH THAT, I'LL YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR LARSON. THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR LARSON. YOU'RE YIELDED 3 MINUTES AND 15 SECONDS. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, SENATOR DAVIS. AND FRANKLY, I AGREE WITH SENATOR DAVIS, AND I'M SUPPORTIVE OF AM1376. WE DO NEED TO CONTINUE TO LOOK AT WAYS TO HELP THE 160-SOME SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT DON'T RECEIVE ANY STATE AID. I THINK AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, POSSIBLY NEXT YEAR, EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN MY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT WILL BE UNEQUALIZED. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE STATE CONSTITUTION SAYS THAT IT IS STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATION FOR EVERY STUDENT K THROUGH 12. WELL, I'D MAKE THE ARGUMENT THAT THE STATE IS PROVIDING AN EDUCATION OR HELPING TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATION FOR EVERY EQUALIZED SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND THE PROPERTY TAXPAYERS OF EVERY UNEQUALIZED SCHOOL DISTRICT ARE PAYING FOR THAT K-12 EDUCATION. NOT THE STATE. AS SOMEONE WHO TOOK DISTANCE LEARNING CLASSES WHEN THEY WERE BRAND NEW TECHNOLOGY BACK IN 2002, 2003, THEY WERE CRUCIAL. THEY LET ME TAKE A CALCULUS CLASS THAT MY SMALL RURAL HIGH SCHOOL DIDN'T OFFER, THROUGH SOUTHEAST. THEY LET ME TAKE A FRENCH CLASS. THEY LET ME TAKE A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE. MY SCHOOL DIDN'T OFFER AP CLASSES OR IB COURSES. FRANKLY, I THINK THAT RURAL SCHOOLS COULD DO A BETTER JOB INNOVATING IN AND OF THEMSELVES TO OFFER CERTAIN THINGS TO STUDENTS. I DON'T THINK THEY SHOULD HAVE TO...I THINK THEY SHOULD JUST DO IT, AND NOT, YOU KNOW, AS I SAID THAT THE \$3.2 MILLION IS GETTING TO ME A LITTLE BIT, BUT BACK TO THE...I'M TRYING TO STAY FOCUSED ON THE DISTANCE EDUCATION THING SINCE I'M ON SENATOR DAVIS' TIME, IT IS IMPORTANT TO RURAL NEBRASKA. AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO THOSE SMALL SCHOOLS TO HAVE THESE OPPORTUNITIES. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: I WENT TO SPEAK TO A CLASS IN WYNOT LAST YEAR AND EVERY DAY THEY HAD A DISTANCE LEARNING CLASS WITH NEWCASTLE AND I WAS ON THE TV WATCHING THE KIDS AT NEWCASTLE AS I WAS SPEAKING IN WYNOT BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT FIND A HISTORY TEACHER OR A CIVICS TEACHER TO TEACH AT WYNOT...OR AT NEWCASTLE. THESE ARE SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT ARE EIGHT, NINE MILES APART. WELL, NEWCASTLE DID JUST COMBINE WITH HARTINGTON, BUT THERE IS A SHORTAGE, THERE IS A REAL SHORTAGE AND THERE'S A REAL PROBLEM. AND SO, IF WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT WHERE FUNDING SHOULD AND SHOULDN'T BE, I THINK, ACTUALLY, THE DISTANCE EDUCATION IS A MUCH BETTER USE OF THE MONEY BECAUSE THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN ACTUALLY USE THE MONEY, AND IT'S A HARD FACT. WITH...HERE'S \$3.2 MILLION JUST TO BE INNOVATIVE, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT \$3.2 MILLION DOLLARS IS...WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

WITH IT. IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE JUST, HERE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TAKE IT. AT LEAST WITH AM1376, WE KNOW WHERE... [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BAKER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR BAKER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. JUST TO RESPOND TO SOME OF THE EARLIER COMMENTS THAT HAVE MADE WITH REGARDS TO DISTANCE LEARNING AND THE IDEA THAT BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE ALREADY DOING IT, THEY SHOULDN'T BE INCENTIVIZED TO CONTINUE DOING IT, OR ALSO TO SAY THAT PEOPLE ARE JUST GETTING INVOLVED TO MAKE MONEY. I THINK BY FOCUSING ON JUST THE SENDING DISTRICTS, IT WOULD MAKE SENSE. YOU KNOW, THINK BACK TO THE 100 YEARS OR MORE AGO WHEN PEOPLE WERE FIRST GETTING TELEPHONES. IT DIDN'T DO YOU ANY GOOD TO HAVE A TELEPHONE IF NOBODY YOU KNEW HAD A TELEPHONE TO CALL YOU. I THINK THE SAME PHILOSOPHY APPLIES TO DISTANCE LEARNING CLASSES. YOU KNOW, NEWCASTLE MAY CONTINUE TO HAVE A NEED TO RECEIVE, BUT WYNOT DOESN'T HAVE THE INCENTIVE TO ORIGINATE. I MEAN, THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE THE CLASS IN THEIR OWN SCHOOL ANYHOW, SO WHY GO TO THE TROUBLE OF MAKING IT AVAILABLE TO ANOTHER SCHOOL UNLESS THERE'S INCENTIVE. SO, I DO THINK IT MAKES SENSE TO FOCUS ON SENDING DISTRICTS. YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES THAT SMALL SCHOOL TO SMALL SCHOOL, AND SOMETIMES IT'S LARGER SCHOOL ORIGINATING AND A SMALLER SCHOOL RECEIVING. YOU KNOW, MANY OF THE SENDING DISTRICTS DON'T HAVE ANY...ANY REALLY COMPELLING REASON WHY THEY HAVE TO KEEP DOING THIS, BUT SOMEONE LIKES DOING IT AND ENJOYS DOING IT, THEY'RE WILLING TO GO THE EXTRA WORK IF THERE'S SOME INCENTIVE, THEIR DISTRICT TO BE A SENDING DISTRICT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED AND THIS IS YOUR THIRD TIME. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I UNDERSTAND WHY WE WANT...WHY SENATOR SULLIVAN WANTS TO OPPOSE AM1376 AND MOVE EVERYTHING INTO THAT TEEOSA FORMULA. BUT AS I SAID ON MY LAST TIME ON THE MIKE ON SENATOR DAVIS' TIME, I TRULY FEEL THAT TEEOSA IS BROKEN. I

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

REMEMBER MY FIRST YEAR DOWN HERE, I WAS HEARING A LOT FROM THE OMAHA AND LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE MASSIVE LOBBY THAT THEY HAD HIRED WHEN THERE WAS GOING TO BE...IT WAS NEVER A CUT IN STATE AID. IT WAS, WE WERE LOSING FEDERAL FUNDS THAT WERE PROVIDED THROUGH THE CONGRESSIONAL STIMULUS BILL. IT WAS PUSHED THROUGH IN 2009 AND 2010 THAT WE USED TO PROP UP THE STATE AID. AND THEN WHEN THOSE FEDERAL FUNDS WEREN'T RENEWED, WE WENT DOWN TO WHAT OUR ORIGINAL NUMBERS WERE. AS MUCH AS PEOPLE WANTED TO SAY WE WERE CUTTING STATE AID, WE WEREN'T. BUT I REMEMBER THAT AND I WAS HEARING A LOT FROM OPS AND LPS ON HOW THEY WERE LOSING SO MUCH MONEY. AND I THINK OPS, AND I'M SURE MY NUMBERS WILL BE CORRECTED BY THEIR LOBBYISTS IF I'M WRONG, BUT THEY WERE GOING TO LOSE \$12-13 MILLION IN STATE AID AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT. IT'S NOT A SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY. YEAH, I GET A CALL FROM PIERCE, NEBRASKA, WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS IN MY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT AND IS NOW IN SENATOR SULLIVAN'S, THEY WERE GOING TO LOSE \$1.2 MILLION. THAT'S A C-1, C-2 SCHOOL LOSING \$1.2 MILLION THAT DOESN'T HAVE EVEN AS MANY KIDS AS OPS HAS ADMINISTRATORS. AND OPS WAS LOSING \$12-13 MILLION. FRANKLY, I CAN TELL YOU WHO WAS TAKING THE BIGGER HIT AND IT WASN'T OPS. O'NEILL, THAT YEAR, LOST \$800,000 OR \$900,000. THE FORMULA IS BROKEN. TO SAY THAT STUDENTS ARE NOT WORTH AS MUCH IN RURAL NEBRASKA AS THEY ARE HERE IN OMAHA AND LINCOLN, I FEEL IS WRONG. IT IS THE STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATION FOR ALL K-12 STUDENTS, NOT THE STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY ON WHERE TEEOSA EQUALIZES, AND THE PROPERTY TAXPAYERS FOR THOSE UNEQUALIZED SCHOOL DISTRICTS, WHICH IS WHAT'S HAPPENING. SENATOR DAVIS' AMENDMENT...AND THIS ALL GOES BACK TO MY FIRST STATEMENT IN THE FACT THAT I UNDERSTAND WHY WE WANT TO HEAVILY...AND SENATOR SULLIVAN HAS TO PROTECT THE COMMITTEE, I UNDERSTAND THAT. I HAVE TO PROTECT GENERAL AFFAIRS, AND I DO TO MY FULLEST EXTENT. BUT THIS IS A GOOD AMENDMENT ON THE SIMPLE FACT THAT WE KNOW THIS IS BEING USED. AND THIS IS BEING USED TO PROVIDE ACCESS FOR KIDS IN RURAL NEBRASKA AND SMALL SCHOOLS WHERE THEY DON'T HAVE THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT KIDS IN OPS AND LPS HAVE OR BELLEVUE. WE DON'T HAVE THOSE OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE AP CLASSES. WE DON'T HAVE THOSE OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE IB CLASSES OR EVEN JUST DRIVE TO... [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: ...TO THE NEAREST COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO TAKE AN EXTRA CLASS. WE DON'T HAVE THAT. WE RELY ON DISTANCE EDUCATION. AND

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

BECAUSE OF THAT, WHEN WE AREN'T RECEIVING ANY TEEOSA MONEY, IT'S THINGS LIKE THIS THAT HELP PROVIDE IT. THIS IS TANGIBLE. WE KNOW IT WORKS. THE \$3.2 MILLION ROUGHLY THAT'S GOING TO CREATE MORE INNOVATION IN EDUCATION, GREAT, I UNDERSTAND IT. THERE'S NO DEFINITION, REALLY. THERE'S NO PARAMETERS, WHAT ARE THE BEST PRACTICES. ESSENTIALLY, WE'RE GIVING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION \$3.2 MILLION A YEAR AND SAY, HEY, GO HAVE FUN, SEE IF YOU CAN INNOVATE. LET'S PUT IT TO SOMETHING THAT ACTUALLY PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO KIDS IN RURAL NEBRASKA. AM1376 PROVIDES THOSE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO RURAL NEBRASKANS TO DO WHAT EVERYBODY ELSE IN HERE WANTS TO DO. PROVIDE MORE KIDS IN THE...IF YOU WANT TO SAY THE MANUFACTURING JOBS. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY, GOOD MORNING. WELCOME BACK THIS WEEK. I STAND IN SUPPORT OF AM1376 FOR A COUPLE OF REASONS. BUT FIRST, FIRST, I THINK WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT DISTANCE LEARNING, AND I UNDERSTAND WHAT SENATOR BAKER WAS TALKING ABOUT WITH INCENTIVES AND THINGS LIKE THAT, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS, DISTANCE LEARNING IS HUGELY IMPORTANT. I BELIEVE NOT ONLY FOR RURAL AREAS...ALTHOUGH THAT IS TRUE, BUT I ALSO THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR SOME OF THE LARGER DISTRICTS AS WELL WHEN WE LOOK AT THE OPPORTUNITIES THERE TO WORK TOGETHER TO TEACH OUR KIDS AND GIVE THEM WHAT THEY NEED CONSTITUTIONALLY FOR A GOOD EDUCATION HERE IN NEBRASKA. I THINK IT NEEDS TO BE POINTED OUT THAT IF WE DON'T DO THIS, IF WE DON'T DO AM1376, THEN ALL OF THAT MONEY THAT WAS THERE IN YEARS BEFORE, AS FAR AS I UNDERSTAND, IS GOING TO BE CUT. I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE HOW BIG THAT CUT IS, BUT I KNOW IN TALKING TO OUR IT FOLKS OUT THERE, LAST INTERIM THEY WERE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT LOSING THIS ABILITY. SO, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT ON THAT LEVEL THAT WE REINSTITUTE THOSE MONIES AND HAVE THEM THERE. ON THE OTHER LEVEL, I THINK, TOO, THAT AS WE LOOK AT THIS, WE HAVE TO LOOK AT THE TECHNOLOGY THAT'S OUT THERE. AND WE HAVE TO SAY, HEY, IS THIS THE MOST EFFICIENT, BEST USE, OF WHAT WE'RE DOING? AND ALWAYS BE PUSHING TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'VE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

GOT THE BEST TOOLS IN PLACE FOR OUR CHILDREN TO BE ABLE TO LEARN. YOU KNOW, YOU AND I SIT HERE AND WE LOOK AT THIS STUFF AND WE SAY, OH, MY GOSH, THAT'S NOT THE BEST WAY TO LEARN. BUT THEN I LOOK AT THESE CHILDREN THAT ARE FOUR AND FIVE AND SIX YEARS OLD THAT ARE TAKING THEIR iPADS OR THEIR OTHER TABLETS AND PROFICIENTLY USING THEM TO THE POINT WHERE I THINK IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU'RE USED TO AND HOW YOU GROW UP AS TO BE SOME OF HOW COMFORTABLE YOU ARE WITH DIFFERENT LEARNING SCENARIOS AND SITUATIONS. SO I WOULDN'T BE NECESSARILY AFRAID OF THAT FOR OUR YOUNGER FOLKS. THEY SEEM TO BE VERY TECH SAVVY. THEY SEEM TO GRASP ON TO THE STUFF VERY WELL. AND QUITE HONESTLY, IF THERE'S A MATH CLASS THAT NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT IN ARTHUR, NEBRASKA, AND THERE'S AN ESU OR A SCHOOL IN EASTERN NEBRASKA, WHETHER IT'S A BIG SCHOOL OR A SMALLER SCHOOL OR WHATEVER, THAT HAS SOMEBODY THAT WANTS TO DO THAT, THEN AS A STATE, AS OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM, WE NEED TO PROVIDE THEM WITH EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THAT POSSIBLE FOR THESE FOLKS. YOU KNOW, IN THE RURAL AREAS, LET'S...LET'S TAKE A SITUATION LIKE ARTHUR, 40-50 MILES AWAY FROM ANY OTHER TOWN, SOME OF THESE KIDS ARE TRAVELING 40-50 MILES ONE WAY TO GET TO SCHOOL. THEY UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF AN EDUCATION. LET'S MAKE SURE THAT WE GIVE THEM ALL THE TOOLS AND GIVE OUR STATE ALL THE TOOLS THAT WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT FOR OUR CHILDREN, AS IT SAYS WE SHOULD, AND MUST, WITHIN THE NEBRASKA CONSTITUTION. AND WITH THAT, I'D LIKE TO YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR LARSON. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'RE YIELDED 1 MINUTE AND 10 SECONDS. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WE HAVE TO CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD. IT MAY BE, YOU KNOW, WHEN I FIRST TOOK MY FIRST DISTANCE EDUCATION CLASS, BIG TVs, FOUR IN THE FRONT, FOUR IN THE BACK, CAMERAS ON EACH SIDE, YOU KNOW, MAYBE DISTANCE EDUCATION CAN CHANGE. MAYBE...I KNOW A LOT OF SCHOOLS HAVE ONE-TO-ONE PROGRAMS. MAYBE THAT DISTANCE EDUCATION IS NOW THROUGH LAPTOPS IN A SPECIFIC ROOM. BUT, TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO FUND THOSE THINGS, THINGS THAT WE KNOW ARE TANGIBLE, THINGS THAT WE KNOW THAT WORK, IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT. INSTEAD OF JUST FUNDING THINGS THAT WE HOPE MIGHT WORK SOME DAY, AND IF THIS GRANT DOESN'T WORK AND IT DOESN'T PROVE THE BEST PRACTICES, THEN WE'LL DISCARD IT. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING. AND PART OF THIS BILL, \$3.2 MILLION A YEAR TO THINK THAT WE HOPE WORK AND WE'RE CUTTING SOMETHING THAT OFFERS TANGIBLE... [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: IS THAT TIME? [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I CAN'T RESIST. THE DEVIL MAKES ME DO THIS. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY. HERE WE ARE FIGHTING OVER A TEENY, WEENY BIT OF GAMBLING MONEY. THAT'S RIGHT. SO, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE GREAT STATE OF IOWA, I'D LIKE TO THANK NEBRASKA FOR THE \$350 MILLION, ROUGHLY, \$10 A SECOND THAT YOU SEND TO US THAT WE CAN MULTIPLY USING SENATOR...OR PROFESSOR GOSS' ECONOMIC MULTIPLIER FACTOR OF 1.75. WE CAN MULTIPLY THAT INTO A \$600 MILLION STIMULUS TO OUR ECONOMY IN IOWA. AND WE CAN TAX MOST OF THAT MONEY. PLUS, WE HAVE A DIRECT GAMING TAX ON IT OF ABOUT \$100 MILLION THAT WE CAN GO AND PLOW TOWARDS OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS IN IOWA AND WE COULD ALSO THROW THAT IN THE KITTY SO WE CAN MUSTER ALL KINDS OF ECONOMIC INCENTIVES TO GO AFTER YOUR COMPANIES AND YOUR BIG INSURANCE COMPANIES WITH TALL BUILDINGS IN OMAHA. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, NEBRASKA. NOW GO BACK AND CONTINUE FIGHTING OVER YOUR LITTLE LOTTERY MONEY. I'D YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR LARSON. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE YIELDED 3 MINUTES AND 40 SECONDS. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU KNOW LAST YEAR, WE HAD A BILL, SENATOR SCHEER, I THINK IT MIGHT EVEN HAVE BEEN HIS PRIORITY ON ALLIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS. IT'S SOMETHING THAT, YOU KNOW, MY RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACTUALLY WEREN'T VERY FOND OF. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY, ACTUALLY. I AGREED WITH SENATOR SCHEER BECAUSE IT ACTUALLY MEANT...WHAT IT ESSENTIALLY DID IS ASKED SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT SAID YOU GUYS NEED TO GET ON COMMON BELL SCHEDULES. AND WHY DID I THINK THAT I LIKED IT? THEY THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE FORCED CONSOLIDATION. I DIDN'T SEE IT AS FORCED CONSOLIDATION. I SAW IT AS A BETTER OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO WORK TOGETHER. AND NOT ONLY WORK TOGETHER, BUT WORK TOGETHER IN DISTANCE EDUCATION ON THE SIMPLE FACT THAT IF YOU HAVE COMMON BELL SCHEDULES, YOU CAN HAVE FEWER TEACHERS, SINCE IT'S HARDER TO GET TEACHERS IN TO RURAL

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

NEBRASKA, PHYSICS TEACHERS, MATH TEACHERS, EVEN A HISTORY TEACHER AT THIS POINT. IF YOU HAVE COMMON BELL SCHEDULES, YOU CAN MAKE CLASSES WORK BETWEEN THREE OR FOUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BE ABLE TO SAVE PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS THAT WAY. ALSO, A SCHOOL DISTRICT ISN'T GOING TO OFFER AN AP CLASS OR AN IB CLASS TO ONE OR TWO KIDS IN O'NEILL THAT CAN...THAT CAN DO THAT COURSE WORK. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE FINANCIALLY VIABLE FOR THEM AND I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT IF YOU HAVE AN ALLIED SCHOOL SYSTEM, WHERE YOU ALL HAVE COMMON BELL SCHEDULES, ALL OF A SUDDEN, NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE MIGHT ACTUALLY, IF YOU HAVE SEVEN OR EIGHT SCHOOLS, THEY WOULD OFFER A COLLEGE COURSE OR AN AP COURSE FOR 14 OR 15 KIDS. I UNDERSTOOD THE FEAR. AND I BRING THIS ALL BACK TO AM1376 ON THE SIMPLE FACT THAT IT'S THINGS LIKE DISTANCE LEARNING THAT WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO RURAL NEBRASKANS OR EVEN URBAN NEBRASKANS OR EVEN HELP CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN BRINGING AN EXTRA CLASS AND MORE FUNDS TO THEM. BECAUSE I REMEMBER WHEN I TOOK MY COMMUNITY...WHEN I TOOK MY CALCULUS CLASS AND OTHER CLASSES I TOOK DISTANCE LEARNING FROM THE UNIVERSITIES AND SOUTHEAST, I PAID FOR THOSE. THIS OFFERS A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES. AND AS I SAID, IT IS TANGIBLE. WE KNOW IT WORKS. WE'VE SEEN IT WORK. SENATOR SCHEER WAS ON THE RIGHT PATH LAST YEAR, I REALLY DO BELIEVE THAT. BUT, IF THAT PATH EVER COMES TO FRUITION... [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE, SENATOR. [LB519]

SENATOR LARSON: ...AND WE DO CREATE AN ALLIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH SAME CLASS SCHEDULES AND DISTANCE EDUCATION IN RURAL NEBRASKA ACTUALLY BECOMES SOMETHING THAT IS REALLY NEEDED, I GUARANTEE NOT EVEN AM1376 IS GOING TO BE ENOUGH. BUT MOVING FORWARD, WE HAVE TO KEEP IT NOW. WHY DO WE WANT TO PASS SOMETHING TO GIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION \$3.2 MILLION A YEAR FOR SOMETHING WE DON'T EVEN KNOW. WE'LL JUST GIVE IT TO YOU. IT HAS TO BE INNOVATIVE AND IT HAS TO DEAL WITH EDUCATION. OTHER THAN THAT, WE DON'T CARE. AND TAKE IT AWAY FROM KIDS THAT MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A DISTANCE LEARNING CLASS IN CALCULUS OR A DISTANCE LEARNING CLASS IN FRENCH BECAUSE THE SCHOOL CAN'T OFFER IT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I SIT ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. AND THE FIRST DAY WE SAT DOWN, THIS WAS ONE OF THE BIG ISSUES BECAUSE IT WOULD SUNSET. EXCUSE MY VOICE, I FINALLY GOT A COLD. WE WERE FACED WITH A BILL THAT ORIGINALLY SAID 40 PERCENT OF IT WOULD GO TO THE EDUCATION COMPETITIVE AND INNOVATION GRANT FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND 40 PERCENT WOULD GO TO THE COMMISSION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, WHICH IS OUR HIGHER EDUCATION FOR GRANT FUNDS. IT WAS ALL PIE IN THE SKY. BUT THEN IT ALSO WAS EXPLAINED TO ME THAT OUR STATE CONSTITUTION SAID IT'S FOR INNOVATION. FORTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE LOTTERY FUNDS MUST BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION. SO THEN WE WERE FORCED TO GO BECAUSE OF APPROPRIATIONS DIDN'T FUND SOME OF THE DEALS THAT WAS ASKED TO BE FUNDED THERE, WHICH I AM IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH. IT WAS ANOTHER END-RUN AROUND TEEOSA. SO WE STARTED FROM SQUARE ONE, AND WE HEARD A LOT OF TESTIMONY FROM BILLS THAT WERE INTRODUCED THEN. AND WE BROUGHT BACK THE OPPORTUNITY GRANT FUND WHICH EVERYBODY THINKS IS A GREAT IDEA BECAUSE IT SPREADS 62 PERCENT OF THE MONEY ACROSS THE STATE-- COMMUNITY COLLEGES, PRIVATE COLLEGES, PUBLIC COLLEGES--BECAUSE IT GOES DIRECTLY TO THE STUDENT AND THEN THE STUDENT USES IT FOR TUITION WHERE HE CHOOSES TO GO TO SCHOOL. IT SPREADS THAT MONEY AROUND WELL. ON THE INNOVATIVE...ON THE DISTANCE LEARNING, THE LAST TIME IT WAS CHANGED, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE \$2.5 MILLION WENT TO DISTANCE LEARNING. THEY ONLY USED \$1.5 MILLION. THEY HAVE NEVER USED THE COMPLETE ALLOTMENT. THERE HASN'T BEEN THAT MANY PEOPLE SCURRYING FOR THE MONEY. AND IT'S NOT JUST RURAL. BIG SCHOOL DISTRICTS WERE ABLE TO USE IT TOO. SO OUR ASSUMPTION WAS, WELL, IT WAS FOR EQUIPMENT IS WHAT IT WAS SAID IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE USED FOR. WELL, EVERYBODY HAS GOT EQUIPMENT NOW. A LOT OF US THOUGHT THEY HAD THEIR SYSTEMS UP AND RUNNING, AND NOW THEY COULD EASILY TRANSITION INTO THEIR BUDGETS BECAUSE REMEMBER, THE ORIGINAL INTENT IN OUR CONSTITUTION IS INNOVATION. SOMETHING ALREADY HAPPENING IS NOT INNOVATION; IT'S ALREADY THERE. AND THEN WE DECIDED TO GIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 10 PERCENT OF THE MONEY AND 10 PERCENT TO THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR INNOVATION GRANTS. I'M NOT BIG INTO THAT EITHER, BUT I DO TRUST EXPERTS. AND I THOUGHT, WELL, IF INNOVATION

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

IS GOING TO COME, IT'S GOING TO COME THROUGH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. SOME PRINCIPAL SOMEWHERE, SOME TEACHER IN SCIENCE IS GOING TO COME UP WITH A PROGRAM AND THEY COULD GO INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND GET GRANT FUNDS. NOTHING IS STOPPING A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO APPLY FOR THIS INNOVATIVE GRANT FUNDS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING. THERE'S \$3.2 MILLION THERE. IF YOU WANT TO FIX IT, MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO SAY...TELL THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PUT AN EMPHASIS ON DISTANCE LEARNING. BUT WE HAVE TO INNOVATE. INNOVATION HAPPENS TOMORROW, IT HAPPENS A WEEK FROM NOW. YOU CAN'T DICTATE TODAY WHAT INNOVATION IS AND SAY IT HAS TO BE THERE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW. SOMETHING ELSE MIGHT COME ALONG IN THREE YEARS THAT'S A GREAT INNOVATION AND A SCHOOL SYSTEM COMES UP WITH IT AND THEY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THAT MONEY. I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH GIVING 20 PERCENT OF THE MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE K-12 SYSTEM FOR INNOVATION. LET'S SEE WHAT THEY DO WITH IT. THAT'S WHY WE SUNSET IT FOR FIVE YEARS. STATE CONSTITUTION SAYS INNOVATION FUND, INNOVATION FUND. IT DOESN'T SAY EXISTING PROGRAM FUNDS. IT SAYS INNOVATION. AND THAT'S WHAT IT'S FOR. AND WE'RE GIVING 20 PERCENT OF IT FOR THAT PURPOSE. I UNDERSTAND THE DISTANCE LEARNING, BUT THEY CAN APPLY TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SAY THEY HAVE AN INNOVATIVE SYSTEM OF DISTANCE LEARNING AND GET A GRANT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB519]

SENATOR GROENE: THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH THAT, NO PROBLEM WHATSOEVER. IT'S WIDE OPEN, AND THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: INNOVATION. SO THE ONLY ONE I HAD A PROBLEM WITH WAS THE 9 PERCENT WE'RE GIVING TO EXISTING TEACHERS...SOME OF IT TO EXISTING TEACHERS TO GET THEIR MASTER'S DEGREE. ALREADY IN THE STEP PROGRAM THEY GET REWARDED IF THEY GET A MASTER'S DEGREE. BUT POLITICAL PRESSURE SAYS WE HAD TO KEEP THAT. WE DID CUT IT DOWN TO 9 PERCENT. THAT ONE HAS NO INNOVATION TO IT. BUT WE ARE THE ART OF COMPRISING POLITICS, SO IT STAYED IN THERE. BUT \$500,000, FOLKS, REALLY, WHERE'S THAT GOING TO GO? IT'D BE BETTER OFF GOING TO THE INNOVATION FUND AS IT EXISTS TO 20 PERCENT AND APPLYING IF THEY REALLY, REALLY HAVE AN INNOVATIVE DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM. BUT TO SAY WE'RE FUNDING EXISTING PROGRAMS.... [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB519]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB519]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. JUST TO CLARIFY A COUPLE OF THINGS, THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS GOING TO BE WILLY-NILLY ABOUT ALLOCATING THESE INNOVATION GRANTS. LB519, AS AMENDED, INDICATES THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AN ELECTED BODY, BY THE WAY, WILL ESTABLISH THE RULES OF THE ROAD, SO TO SPEAK, FOR THIS COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM. AND FURTHERMORE, IN LB519 AS AMENDED, THESE GRANTS HAVE TO HAVE SPECIFIC MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES FOR IMPROVING EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS, ELEMENTARY STUDENTS, MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, OR FOR IMPROVING THE TRANSITION BETWEEN ANY SUCCESSIVE STAGES OF EDUCATION OR BETWEEN EDUCATION AND THE WORK FORCE. SO I THINK THAT THERE ARE PARAMETERS, ADEQUATE, AND THEY WILL BE FINE-TUNED AND DETAILED MORE SPECIFICALLY BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. AGAIN, I STAND NOT IN SUPPORT OF AM1376, REMINDING YOU AGAIN THAT THE PREVIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE DID NOT RECOMMEND CONTINUING FUNDING FOR THE DISTANCE EDUCATION INCENTIVE, NOR DID IT RECOMMEND THAT IT BE INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S BUDGET OUT OF GENERAL FUNDS. AND IT'S BEEN SINCE 2006 THAT DISTRICTS KNEW THESE FUNDS WERE NOT GOING TO BE CONTINUING ON A PERMANENT BASIS. AND I WILL JUST SIMPLY ASK THE QUESTION--WILL ALL THE ACTIVITY, IF THIS FUNDING SOURCE GOES AWAY, WITH ALL THE FUNDING...THE ACTIVITY ON DISTANCE EDUCATION STOP BECAUSE PERHAPS THE DISTRICT IS LOSING \$1,000 OR \$6,000 IN FUNDING? OR MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARE THEY DOING THIS BECAUSE IT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE EDUCATION THAT THEY ARE PROVIDING FOR THEIR STUDENTS? AND IF SO, THEN THEY NEED TO HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DO IT, WHETHER IT'S USING AN EXISTING TEACHER; OR IF THEY CAN'T FIND THAT TEACHER, THEN DOING IT THROUGH DISTANCE EDUCATION. OF COURSE, IN THE LARGER PICTURE, I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE FACT THAT DISTANCE EDUCATION IS CHANGING IN RESPONSE TO NOT ONLY TECHNOLOGY, BUT THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF RURAL NEBRASKA. AND SO THIS IS A POLICY DECISION THAT GOING FORWARD WE NEED TO DETAIL AND TALK ABOUT MORE IN-DEPTH. BUT I DON'T THINK THAT JUST SIMPLY ALLOWING \$500,000 TO CONTINUE DISTANCE EDUCATION INCENTIVES IS REALLY AN ADEQUATE DISCUSSION FOR POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THIS TOPIC. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

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Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SPEAKER HADLEY: SEEING NO ONE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR DAVIS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB519]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'LL JUST SAY AGAIN, DISTANCE LEARNING IS A WONDERFUL TOOL FOR RURAL SCHOOLS AND FOR URBAN SCHOOLS TO MAXIMIZE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE. IT SHOULD BE FUNDED BY THE STATE IN SOME WAY. AS I RECALL, THE DISCUSSION THAT CENTERED AROUND THE EDUCATION FUNDING FROM THE LOTTERY NEVER REALLY WAS RESOLVED. AND I WAS ALWAYS A SUPPORTER OF THAT. AND I THINK SOME OTHER PEOPLE, WHOM ARE SITTING IN THE BODY, WERE TOO. BUT I THINK THIS IS A VERY MODEST PROPOSAL AND WE ALL KNOW THAT SENATOR KOLOWSKI'S BILL WAS DEFEATED AND SENATOR BAKER'S AMENDMENT WENT DOWN WITH THAT. SO THIS IS A VERY REASONABLE AND MODEST PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE FUNDING DISTANCE EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA. AND I WOULD URGE THE BODY TO SUPPORT IT AND VOTE GREEN. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE AMENDMENT TO THE E&R AMENDMENTS ON LB519 BE ADOPTED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB519]

CLERK: 27 AYES, 4 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF SENATOR DAVIS' AMENDMENT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED. [LB519]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED...SENATOR SULLIVAN WAIVES. SENATOR HANSEN. YES. SENATOR HANSEN, THE MOTION...THE MOTION TO... [LB519]

SENATOR HANSEN: YES, MR. PRESIDENT. I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB519 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB519]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. THE BILL IS ADVANCED. MR. CLERK. [LB519]

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Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CLERK: SENATOR, I HAVE NO E&Rs. I DO HAVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILL. SENATOR SULLIVAN WOULD MOVE TO AMEND WITH AM1372. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1280.) [LB519A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB519A]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND THIS AMENDMENT SIMPLY APPROPRIATES THE DOLLARS FOR LB519, AS AMENDED, WITH THE MOST RECENT AMENDMENT THAT WE JUST ADOPTED. THANK YOU. [LB519A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SEEING NO ONE WISHING TO SPEAK, ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY VOTING AYE; OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB519A]

CLERK: 38 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF SENATOR SULLIVAN'S AMENDMENT. [LB519A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED. [LB519A]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB519A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB519A]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB519A TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB519A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU HAVE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED SAY NAY. LB519A IS ADVANCED. MR. CLERK. [LB519A]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB449, SENATOR HANSEN, I DO HAVE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS. (ER74, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1152.) [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB449]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB449. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU HAVE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. THE MOTION IS ADOPTED. [LB449]

CLERK: SENATOR BRASCH WOULD MOVE TO AMEND WITH AM1383.
(LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1280-1281.) [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BRASCH, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. AND GOOD MORNING TO THOSE JOINING US THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF BEAUTIFUL NEBRASKA. I AM INTRODUCING AM1383 THIS MORNING TO LB449. AM1383 IS AN ADAPTATION OF LB571 THAT ALLOWS THE NEBRASKA TOURISM COMMISSION TO MARK SIGNIFICANT TOURISM ATTRACTION SIGNAGE ACROSS THE STATE WITH HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKERS. AND THIS IS DONE WITH FUNDS FROM LOCAL AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS. THE BILL WAS ADVANCED BY GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WITH AN 8-0 VOTE AND WITH NO OPPOSITION TESTIMONY. SINCE THE BILL IS STRAIGHTFORWARD IN ITS PURPOSE, I WILL BE BRIEF WITH THIS DESCRIPTION. AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THE NEBRASKA TOURISM COMMISSION WAS CREATED IN 2012 TO PROVIDE A STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN TO CULTIVATE AND PROMOTE TOURISM. THOUGH THE COMMISSION IS RELATIVELY NEW, IT IS ALREADY DOING TREMENDOUS WORK FOR OUR STATE TO ATTRACT VISITORS AND CREATE GREATER TOURISM REVENUE AND ECONOMIC GAIN THROUGHOUT NEBRASKA. AM1383 WOULD PROVIDE THE TOURISM WITH ANOTHER VALUABLE MEANS AND A PATH TO CONTINUE THE IMPORTANT WORK OF TOURISM PROMOTION. AM1383 GIVES THE COMMISSION THE AUTHORITY TO MARK SIGNIFICANT TOURISM ATTRACTIONS IN NEBRASKA. TO DO THIS, THEY ARE GIVEN SOME SPECIFIC POWERS TO DETERMINE SIGNIFICANT TOURISM ATTRACTIONS FOR THE STATE, TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF TOURISM MARKERS, AND TO PRESERVE AND REPLACE MARKERS, AND ACCEPT GIFTS AND ENCOURAGE LOCAL PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THESE TOURISM MARKERS. THE INTENTION OF AM1383 IS TO PROVIDE LOCAL GROUPS, ORGANIZATION, AND GOVERNMENT BODIES THE ABILITY TO WORK WITH THE TOURISM COMMISSION AND ESTABLISH HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKERS FOR SIGNIFICANT TOURISM ATTRACTIONS. THE LOCAL GROUP WOULD PROPOSE AND DEVELOP A MARKER WITH THE TOURISM COMMISSION, AND IN ADDITION THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR TOURISM MARKER UNTIL FUNDING HAS BEEN SECURED THROUGH GIFTS OR LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS PREVENTS THE COMMISSION FROM USING ITS OWN DOLLARS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE TOURISM MARKERS. ONCE APPROVED,

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS WOULD ERECT AND MAINTAIN THE MARKERS WITH CONSIDERATIONS TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE. IN SHORT, AM1383 PROVIDES PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE TOURISM COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH TOURISM MARKERS FOR SIGNIFICANT ATTRACTIONS WITHOUT PUTTING ANY COST BURDEN ON THE COMMISSION TO PAY FOR THE PURCHASE OF THOSE MARKERS. COLLEAGUES, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE GREEN FOR AM1383, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE NEBRASKA TOURISM COMMISSION AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH A SMALL, BUT IMPORTANT MEANS, FOR CONTINUING TO MARK SIGNIFICANT TOURISM ATTRACTIONS IN OUR GREAT STATE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER; THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB571 LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. AM1383 IS ONE OF THOSE INCONSISTENT POLICIES THAT WE HAVE IN THIS STATE. IT SEEKS TO PROMOTE TOURISM, A LAUDABLE EFFORT. HOPEFULLY, IT BRINGS SOME MONEY INTO THE STATE. BUT JUST THE OTHER DAY, WE DID A VERY ANTI-TOURISM THING. AND WE DISCOURAGED PEOPLE FROM COMING IN AND SEEING THESE SIGNS AND THIS PROMOTION. MOST LIKELY, MOST OF THE STATES ARE GOING TO PERMIT THE SALE OF POWDERED ALCOHOL. IT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING A LITTLE KIDDIE CAN SNIFF, BECAUSE IF THEY SNIFF IT, THEY WILL ONLY SNIFF IT ONCE, IT BURNS YOUR NOSE. BUT IT IS THE KIND OF THING THAT PEOPLE COMING THROUGH THE STATE WITH THEIR PICNIC BASKETS OR BUSINESS TOURISM COMING HERE FOR CONVENTIONS OR COMING HERE FOR BUSINESS MEETINGS MAY VERY WELL HAVE IN THEIR PICNIC BASKETS OR THEIR SUITCASES. AND THE OTHER DAY, WHAT WE DID IS WE MADE IT A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY 90 DAYS IN JAIL AND A \$500 FINE, AND, CERTAINLY, A MANDATORY COURT APPEARANCE TO POSSESS ALCOHOL BY AN ADULT IN THIS STATE. NOW ALL THE TOURISM PROMOTION WE CAN DO, SOMEBODY DRIVING ACROSS THE STATE WITH THIS IN THEIR PICNIC BASKET OR IN THEIR SUITCASE SO THEY CAN MIX A DRINK WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY \$9 IN SOME LOCAL BAR FOR IT... WHILE THEY'RE SITTING IN THEIR HOTEL ROOM, SEND THOSE PEOPLE BACK TO THEIR STATES SAYING-- YOU KNOW WHAT, I GOT PICKED UP IN NEBRASKA AND NOW I'VE GOT TO GO BACK A MONTH LATER FOR A TRIAL OR TO PLEAD GUILTY AND I MIGHT HAVE TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY AND A \$90...OR FACE 90 DAYS IN JAIL. THIS WILL JUST UNDO IT COMPLETELY. THAT IS FOR AN ADULT PENALTY IS THE MOST ANTI-TOURISM, WHETHER IT'S REGULAR TOURISM OR

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

BUSINESS TOURISM THING WE CAN IMAGINE. PENALIZING ADULTS WHO ARE TRAVELING THROUGH THE STATE WITH A THREAT OF 90 DAYS IN JAIL AND EVEN IF THEY GET NO TIME IN JAIL, HAVING TO COME BACK HERE FOR COURT APPEARANCES AND SENTENCING IS JUST TERRIBLY "UN-TOURISTY." THANK YOU. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, BEFORE I ASK SENATOR BRASCH A QUESTION OR TWO, I WOULD LIKE TO JUST MAKE A COMMENT OR TWO ABOUT WHAT "PROFESSOR" SCHUMACHER SAID ABOUT THE POWDERED ALCOHOL. I THINK THAT K2 SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA WOULD BRING A TREMENDOUS INFLUX OF TOURISTS IF IT WERE MADE LEGAL. I THINK REGULAR MARIJUANA WOULD BRING A GREAT INFLUX OF TOURISTS IF IT WERE MADE LEGAL. IF THE STANDARD FOR DETERMINING WHETHER SOMETHING OUGHT TO BE LEGAL OR NOT IS HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD COME HERE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT, HOW MUCH MONEY THEY WOULD SPEND. THERE IS WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE OLDEST PROFESSION IN THE WORLD, WHICH NOBODY HERE, AS FAR AS I KNOW, WANTS TO LEGALIZE, ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY COULD PASS A POLYGRAPH IF THEY WERE ASKED HAD THEY EVER PARTICIPATED WITH ANYBODY WHO ENGAGES IN THAT PROFESSION. BUT FROM WHAT I CAN DETERMINE FROM READING THE "BIBBLE" WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO TELL US WHERE AND WHEN EVERYTHING BEGAN, THE OLDEST PROFESSION MIGHT BE AGRICULTURE, SOME PEOPLE MIGHT SAY BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE IN A GARDEN. BUT THAT...AS THAT SONG SAYS--IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO. IN ORDER TO TILL THE LAND, YOU MIGHT NEED A SPADE OR A SHOVEL. SO THAT WOULD PRECEDE BEING ABLE TO ENGAGE IN AGRICULTURE AS A PROFESSION. BUT WHO MADE THE SHOVEL? WHO CAME UP WITH WHATEVER IS THAT ITEM OR THING WHICH PRECEDED WHATEVER COMES IMMEDIATELY AFTER IT? I DOUBT SERIOUSLY THAT ANYBODY WOULD COME TO NEBRASKA BECAUSE POWDERED ALCOHOL IS LEGAL. I DOUBT THAT ANYBODY WOULD FAIL TO COME TO NEBRASKA BECAUSE IT IS NOT LEGAL. YOU ALSO HAVE TO LOOK AT THE MATTER OF ENFORCEMENT. ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST LEGALIZING THIS SUBSTANCE IS HOW EASILY IT CAN BE TRANSPORTED, HOW EASILY IT CAN BE HIDDEN, AND ALL OF THESE OTHER THINGS. SO PROFESSOR GAVE US A LITTLE COMIC RELIEF JUST BEFORE YOU ALL GO TO FEED YOUR APPETITES. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK SENATOR BRASCH A SERIOUS QUESTION OR TWO. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BRASCH, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR BRASCH: YES, I WILL YIELD. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR BRASCH, IS THERE GOING TO BE A STANDARDIZED SIGN OR MARKER? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THERE WILL NOT BE A STANDARDIZED SIGN OR MARKER. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO THIS COULD AMOUNT TO WHAT SOME PEOPLE WOULD CALL TICKY-TACKY SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE STATE, BASED ON WHATEVER A LOCAL COMMUNITY WANTED TO HAVE DONE IN WHICH THEY COULD GET THIS TOURISM OUTFIT TO AGREE TO, IS THAT MORE OR LESS CORRECT? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THERE IS A COMMISSION THAT WILL NEED TO REVIEW THE SIGN; SO WILL THE COMMITTEE AND THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT. SO IT IS...SIGNS NEED TO BE APPROVED AND ALSO APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS. IT WILL NOT BE RANDOM, TICKY-TACKY SIGNS, AS YOU REFERRED TO THEM. THEY WILL HAVE PURPOSE, MEANINGFUL, THEY WILL HAVE LOCAL SUPPORT, LOCAL PARTNERSHIP, FUNDING. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT HERE IS WHAT I AM ASKING: AS FAR AS THE APPEARANCE OF THE SIGN, WILL THERE BE A STANDARD SIZE, A STANDARD FORMAT? WHAT I MEAN BY TICKY-TACKY IS A LOT OF MISHMASH ITEMS SCATTERED AND SPRINKLED THROUGHOUT THE STATE. SO IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE SOMEBODY WHO MIGHT BE A GIANT TOOK A HANDFUL OF LITTLE PIECES OF PAPER AND JUST THREW THEM BROADCAST AND WHEREVER THE WIND SETTLED THEN DOWN, THAT'S WHERE THEY WOULD BE WITHOUT RHYME OR REASON, OTHER THAN THAT PROVIDED BY THE WIND. WILL THERE BE A STANDARDIZED SIZE? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THESE ARE...THE STANDARDIZED SIGNS THAT ARE IN PLACE TODAY ARE HISTORICAL MARKERS. THESE ARE NOT HISTORICAL. THEY WILL BE AESTHETIC AND APPROVED LOCALLY. AND IT DEPENDS ON THEIR LOCATION, AS TO...AND THE SIZE NEEDS TO HAVE PUBLIC SAFETY IN MIND, VISIBILITY. IT WILL NOT BE BILLBOARDS, IF THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE REFERRING TO. BUT IT WILL HAVE APPROVAL AND UNIFORMITY BECAUSE OF THE COMMISSION AND THE LOCAL INDIVIDUALS. IT WILL BE A PROCESS THAT NEEDS TO BE APPROVED. [LB449]

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Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SINCE MY TIME IS UP, I WILL STOP FOR NOW, BUT MY LIGHT IS ON FOR THE NEXT TIME I BE RECOGNIZED. THANK YOU. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: AS THE AGENDA SAYS, AT 11:15, PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT, ANY SELECT FILE BILL LISTED ABOVE WITHOUT AN AMENDMENT OTHER THAN E&R AMENDMENT WILL BE VOTED ON FOR ADVANCEMENT. MR. CLERK.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, THE FIRST BILL, LB559, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS. [LB559]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN, FOR A MOTION. [LB559]

SENATOR HANSEN: WHICH BILL WAS THAT, MR. CLERK? [LB559]

CLERK: LB559, SENATOR. [LB559]

SENATOR HANSEN: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB559 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB559]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. THE BILL IS ADVANCED. MR. CLERK. [LB559]

CLERK: LB156, SENATOR. I DO HAVE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS PENDING. (ER71, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1096.) [LB156]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB156]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB156. [LB156]

SPEAKER HADLEY: QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB156. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. I CAN'T HEAR YOU. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR...ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB156]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, SENATOR. [LB156]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB156]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB156 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB156]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU HAVE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE BILL IS ADVANCED. MR. CLERK. [LB156]

CLERK: LB561, SENATOR. THERE ARE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS. (ER77, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1153.) [LB561]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB561]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB561. [LB561]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB561. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB561]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL. [LB561]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB561]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB561 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB561]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU HAVE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE BILL IS ADVANCED. MR. CLERK. [LB561]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB458 IS SELECT FILE. I DO HAVE E&R AMENDMENTS, SENATOR. (ER70, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1057.) [LB458]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB458]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB458. [LB458]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB458. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB458]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, SENATOR. [LB458]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB458]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB458 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB458]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. LB458 IS ADVANCED. MR. CLERK. [LB458]

CLERK: LB80, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB80]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB80]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB80 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB80]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU HAVE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE BILL IS ADVANCED. MR. CLERK. [LB80]

CLERK: LB264, SENATOR. I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL. [LB264]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB264]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB264 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB264]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE BILL IS ADVANCED. MR. CLERK. [LB264]

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Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, NEW A BILLS: LB423A BY SENATOR NORDQUIST, (READ TITLE FOR FIRST TIME). SENATOR COASH, LB566A (READ TITLE FOR FIRST TIME). MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, CHAIRED BY SENATOR MELLO, REPORTS LB657, LB656, LB658, LB659, LB660, LB661, AND LB662 TO GENERAL FILE, MOST OF WHICH HAVE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ATTACHED. I ALSO HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT, EXPLANATION OF VOTE FROM SENATOR SMITH (RE LB56, LB89, LB89A, LB152, LB245, LB324, LB413, LB413A, LB415, LB482, LB15, LB641). AND AN AMENDMENT TO BE PRINTED TO LB412 BY SENATOR MELLO. NAME ADD: SENATOR COASH WOULD LIKE TO ADD HIS NAME TO LB357. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1282-1283.) [LB423A LB566A LB657 LB656 LB658 LB659 LB660 LB661 LB662 LB56 LB89 LB89A LB152 LB245 LB324 LB413 LB413A LB415 LB482 LB15 LB641 LB412 LB357]

MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR HOWARD WOULD MOVE TO RECESS THE BODY UNTIL 1:30 P.M.

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION TO RECESS THE BODY. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. THE BODY IS RECESSED UNTIL 1:30.

RECESS

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER. THE AFTERNOON SESSION IS ABOUT TO RECONVENE. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. DO YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS FOR THE RECORD?

CLERK: THREE APPOINTMENT LETTERS FROM THE GOVERNOR, MR. PRESIDENT, TO THE BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE, AND STATE BOARD OF HEALTH. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1284-1285.)

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. CLERK, WE WILL PROCEED TO WHERE WE LEFT OFF IN THIS MORNING'S AGENDA.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR BRASCH HAD OFFERED, AS AN AMENDMENT TO LB449, AM1383. THAT WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SEEING NO ONE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR BRASCH, DO YOU WISH...PARDON ME? SENATOR CHAMBERS. I'M SORRY, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I WOULD LIKE TO ENGAGE SENATOR BRASCH IN A BIT MORE DISCUSSION OF HER AMENDMENT. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BRASCH, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: I WILL YIELD. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR BRASCH, IS THERE A PORTION OF YOUR AMENDMENT WHICH REFERS TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PROJECT YOU'RE DISCUSSING? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: YES, THERE IS FOR THE SIGNS. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: DO YOU HAVE THAT LANGUAGE IN FRONT OF YOU? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: I DO. WHICH LINE OR WHICH PART OF IT DO YOU...? [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WHERE IT SAYS THAT GIFTS CAN BE ACCEPTED AND WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH THOSE GIFTS ONCE OBTAINED. WOULD YOU READ THE LANGUAGE, IF YOU ARE LOOKING AT IT. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: OKAY. I AM LOOKING AT THE BILL IN FRONT OF ME AND I'M...WHICH LINE IS IT OR STARTING WITH...OH, I SEE IT RIGHT HERE: TO PRESERVE, REPLACE, OR MODIFY HIGHWAY TOURISM SIGNS AND MARKERS, AND (E) "ACCEPT GIFTS AND ENCOURAGE LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN AND

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ERECTION OF HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKERS THROUGH THE USE OF GIFTS AND MATCHING-FUND AGREEMENTS." [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IS THAT THE ONLY USE THAT CAN BE MADE OF THESE FUNDS? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: YES. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND WHO WILL DISTRIBUTE THESE FUNDS? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THE COMMISSION AND THROUGH TOURISM, DEPARTMENT (SIC) OF TOURISM, AND THEY HAVE A COMMISSION THAT MUST APPROVE THE SIGNS AND THE SIGNS SHALL NOT BE ERECTED UNTIL ALL OF THE FUNDS ARE THERE FOR...TO PAY FOR THE SIGNS. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO THERE IS A TOURISM COMMISSION AND A TOURISM DEPARTMENT? ARE THERE TWO ENTITIES HERE? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THERE'S JUST THE COMMISSION. IT'S JUST A COMMISSION, AND THERE IS AN AGENCY THAT IS TOURISM. BUT WITHIN THAT THERE IS A COMMISSION THAT WE CREATED IN 2012. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO THE COMMISSION EXISTS. DOES IT HAVE A DIRECTOR? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: YES. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND THE TOURISM COMMISSION OPERATES THIS AGENCY? IS THAT CORRECT OR INCORRECT? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THAT IS CORRECT. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ON THAT COMMISSION, IF YOU KNOW? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THE DIRECTOR HAD COME TO TESTIFY. I'M NOT CERTAIN OF THE NUMBER THAT ARE ON THE COMMISSION. I COULD CHECK. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT IF A PROJECT COMES TO THEM, ARE THEY THE FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS LEADING TO APPROVAL OF THE ERECTION OF ONE OR MORE OF THESE SIGNS? ARE THEY THE FIRST STEP? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: IF THE SIGN IS ALREADY DESIGNED AND A COMMUNITY...AND IT HAS THE PRIVATE FUNDING THEN IT CAN MOVE FORWARD, BUT IT WILL GO TO THE COMMISSION AND THEN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND THIS BILL THAT IT IS BEING ATTACHED TO DOES WHAT? WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL TO WHICH IT IS BEING ATTACHED? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE FUNDS, FUNDING MECHANISM, AND TO ALSO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A PATH FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO HAVE SIGNAGE FOR NATURAL... [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WELL, NOT TO INTERRUPT,... [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: OKAY. ALL RIGHT. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...BUT MY TIME IS RUNNING OUT. THAT IS WHAT YOUR AMENDMENT DOES. WHAT IS LB449 TRYING TO DO? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: IT DEALS WITH GRANT FUNDING TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION FOR LOCAL SIGNAGE. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OKAY. I THINK THIS IS NOT A GOOD AMENDMENT. I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT THE BILL, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENT. AND I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO WIND UP WITH TICKY-TACKY LITTLE SIGNS... [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THERE WILL BE COMPLAINTS AND YOU ALL WILL HAVE DONE IT ON THIS AFTERNOON WITHOUT EXAMINING THIS AMENDMENT, WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE RAMIFICATIONS OF

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

IT. YOU'LL DO IT AS A FAVOR, I GUESS, FOR SENATOR BRASCH, WHO IS DOING IT AS A FAVOR TO SOMEBODY. AND THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME PRIDE TAKEN IN THE APPEARANCE OF THE STATE. THIS SHOULD NOT BE A STATE WHERE YOU HAVE THOSE BURMA-SHAVE SIGNS THAT YOU USED TO SEE ALONG COUNTRY ROADS, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THEY'LL START DOING. I MIGHT COULD EVEN WRITE RHYMES THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT TO GET MY SUPPORT. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO SUPPORT THIS AMENDMENT AND I WILL NOT SUPPORT THE BILL. BUT I WILL ASK SENATOR MELLO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BILL. AND THAT'S THE LAST I WILL SPEAK ON THIS AMENDMENT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WONDER IF SENATOR BRASCH WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: YES, I WILL YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB449]

SENATOR HADLEY: SENATOR BRASCH, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB449]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. WOULD YOU TELL US AGAIN WHAT THE BILL NUMBER WAS THAT YOU INTRODUCED THAT WE'RE BASING THIS AMENDMENT ON? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: LB571. [LB449 LB571]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: OKAY. THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, I'D YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR BRASCH, IF SHE COULD USE IT. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE YIELDED 4 MINUTES AND 20 SECONDS. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. AND THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. AND I DO ALSO WANT TO THANK SENATOR CHAMBERS FOR EXPRESSING HIS CONCERN. WE SPOKE WITH THIS COMMISSION AND SEVERAL OTHERS BEFORE INTRODUCING THE LEGISLATION. IT WAS HEARD AND THERE WERE NO OPPONENTS AT THAT TIME. SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS RAISED SOME CONCERNS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL HELP THE SMALLER

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

COMMUNITIES WITH LOCAL INTEREST AREAS, BE IT A SPECIAL RAILROAD BRIDGE IN VALENTINE, NEBRASKA; OR THE GOLDEN SPIKE BRIDGE IN NORTH PLATTE; IN OGALLALA, SOME OF THEIR AREAS--FRONT STREET. AND OUR HIGHWAYS, OUR SCENIC HIGHWAYS ARE PROTECTED AND REGULATED, AS ARE OTHERS, THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS. THIS PROVIDES A GRANT FUNDING, PRIVATE FUNDING MECHANISM TO HELP THOSE LOCAL, OFF-THE-BEATEN-PATH AREAS THAT ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO COMMUNITIES ALL OVER OUR STATE. AND, AGAIN, WHAT WE WERE HOPING WAS THAT THIS WOULD HELP IN THE TOURISM, HELP IN THE FUNDING, AND BRING MORE PEOPLE TO ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF SOME OF THESE PLACES THAT DON'T HAVE A LARGE ADVERTISING BUDGET. THEY MIGHT NOT BE IN THE TOURISM MAGAZINE OR ON AIRPLANE MAGAZINES, BUT AS PEOPLE ARE DRIVING ACROSS THE STATE, THEY MAY SEE OR HEAR OF A LOCATION THAT IS A LOCAL TREASURE. AND WITH FUNDING CONTRIBUTED LOCALLY AND PRIVATELY, YET REGULATED, REGULATED THROUGH THIS COMMISSION AND THEN ALSO REGULATED ONCE AGAIN THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS, HAVING OVERSIGHT ON THE SAFETY OF THESE, WE DID NOT WANT TO HAVE A UNIFORM SIGN. THOSE ARE WITH THE HISTORIC SIGNS ACROSS NEBRASKA. WE BELIEVE THAT A SIGN THAT YOU WOULD SEE IN OGALLALA AT A LOCAL TREASURE WOULD NOT BE THE SAME SIGN YOU WOULD SEE IN OMAHA FOR THE HENRY DOORLY ZOO, FOR EXAMPLE. THESE ARE NOT LARGE BUDGETS. THESE SIGNS ARE TO BE PROFESSIONALLY DONE. THEY ARE TO BE COMING TO THE COMMISSION WITH A PLAN OR WITH THE DESIRE OF A SIGN, AND AT THAT POINT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL HELP WORK WITH A PROFESSIONAL SIGN. BECAUSE THERE IS OVERSIGHT, WE BELIEVE THE QUALITY WILL BE CHECKED, NOT ONCE BUT TWICE, BEFORE THEY ARE ERECTED. AND THEY CANNOT BE ERECTED UNTIL THEY ARE FULLY FUNDED BY PRIVATE GRANTS AND DOLLARS. THANK YOU AGAIN, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. AND THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS, FOR YOUR CONCERNS EXPRESSED. AND THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. AND THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE NEXT IN THE COMMITTEE (SIC). [LB449]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU AGAIN, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M GOING TO QUOTE FROM THE BILL HERE, SECTION 2(4), WHICH IS THE...YEAH, WHICH READS, "IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CORPORATION, ASSOCIATION, OR ORGANIZATION TO POST, ERECT, OR MAINTAIN ANY HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKER ON PUBLIC PROPERTY OR UPON ANY PUBLIC STREET, ROAD, OR HIGHWAY IN THE STATE BEARING ANY LEGEND, INSCRIPTION,

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

OR NOTICE WHICH PURPORTS TO MARK A TOURISM ATTRACTION OR TO MAINTAIN ANY HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKER POSTED OR ERECTED AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT." COLLEAGUES, I THINK THAT ELIMINATES SENATOR CHAMBERS' CONCERN ABOUT TICKY-TACKY SIGNS. I CAN'T GO OUT AND PUT UP A SIGN THAT SAYS, COME VISIT MY GOATS, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT ON THE STATE RIGHT OF WAY AND CALL IT A TOURISM SIGN. THIS HAS TO BE A SIGN THAT THE STATE APPROVES, NOT JUST SOMETHING THAT ANYBODY CAN THROW UP THERE. THIS BILL DID COME THROUGH GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE. I SUPPORTED IT THERE AND I SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT AT THIS POINT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR DAVIS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF SENATOR BRASCH'S AMENDMENT. I THINK IT'S GOOD POLICY. ACTUALLY, I THINK THIS IDEA CAME OUT OF SOME WORK THAT SENATOR LOUDEN HAD DONE WITH THE TOURISM COMMITTEE (SIC) SOME TIME AGO. BUT I JUST WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU KNOW, "SENATOR LARSONBAUGH" FROM DISTRICT "50" HAS GOATS. AND SO MAYBE HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THOSE IN HIS DISTRICT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR AMENDMENT. SENATOR BRASCH WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE AMENDMENT TO LB449 BE ADOPTED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB449]

CLERK: 31 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED. [LB449]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN. [LB449]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT LB449 ADVANCE TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE.
[LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MY LIGHT HAS BEEN ON. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: OH, SORRY. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.
[LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATURE, I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR MELLO A FEW THINGS ABOUT HIS BILL
IF HE WILL YIELD. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: OF COURSE. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR MELLO, WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR BILL?
[LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: LB449 IS ONE OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PRIORITY
BILLS THIS YEAR, THIS SESSION, SENATOR CHAMBERS, THAT INCORPORATES
THREE BILLS THAT CAME TO THE COMMITTEE THAT WERE NOT...DID NOT
REQUEST AN APPROPRIATION. THE FIRST BILL, LB449, WAS A BILL I BROUGHT
WHICH MADE SOME FUNDING ALLOCATION CHANGES IN THE BUSINESS
INNOVATION ACT AS IT RELATES TO MICROENTERPRISES AND A SMALL
BUSINESS PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
THERE'S A BILL THAT SENATOR BRASCH ALSO BROUGHT TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE THAT MADE SOME CHANGES IN A VERY SIMILAR
PROGRAM, MAYBE NOT THE SAME CHANGES IN THE UNDERLYING LB449, THAT
THE COMMITTEE INCORPORATED AS A COMMITTEE AMENDMENT TO THE
UNDERLYING BILL; AS WELL AS A BILL, LB450, THAT I BROUGHT TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WHICH CREATED A NEW CASH FUND FOR THE
NEBRASKA TOURISM COMMISSION. IT GAVE SOME NEW AUTHORITY TO THE
TOURISM COMMISSION IN RESPECTS TO HOW THEY CAN SPEND SOME OF THEIR
CURRENT CASH FUND AUTHORITY, AS WELL AS IT PROVIDED SOME ADDITIONAL
OVERSIGHT OVER THE TOURISM COMMISSION BY REQUIRING THAT THEY SET UP
SOME GRANT COMMITTEE, SOME GRANT SELECTION COMMITTEE PROCESSES,
VERY SIMILAR TO OTHER SMALL STATE AGENCIES. [LB449 LB450]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO THE ORIGINAL BILL DEALT WITH TOURISM? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: THE ORIGINAL BILL DEALT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH THE BUSINESS INNOVATION ACT. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND ALL OF THESE THINGS, IN YOUR MIND, ARE GERMANE TO THAT PURPOSE, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF A CASH FUND? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: I BELIEVE THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, WHICH INCORPORATED TWO OTHER BILLS ALONG WITH THE UNDERLYING BILL, MADE IT GERMANE IN RESPECTS TO AN OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: HAD THOSE OTHER TWO PROPOSITIONS NOT BEEN ADOPTED, WOULD THE CREATION OF THE CASH FUND BE GERMANE TO YOUR ORIGINAL BILL? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR, I THINK THAT WOULD BE LEFT UP TO AN INDIVIDUAL SENATOR MAYBE TO CHALLENGE THE GERMANENESS OF THAT AMENDMENT. BUT BECAUSE, WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ON GENERAL FILE WHICH OPENS UP THE TOURISM COMMISSION STATUTES AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STATUTES, I BELIEVE SENATOR BRASCH'S AMENDMENT THAT WE JUST ADOPTED IS GERMANE TO THE UNDERLYING BILL. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WELL, WHEN I SAY "GERMANE" IN THIS INSTANCE, AND I SHOULD HAVE MADE IT CLEAR, I MEAN BASED ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT A BILL CONTAIN ONLY ONE SUBJECT. I THINK THE INTERPRETATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S RULE NOT ONLY IS TOO NARROW, BUT IT ALSO IS MANIPULATED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, DEPENDING ON WHO'S IN THE CHAIR AND WHAT THE ISSUE IS. THERE ARE SOME THINGS WHICH BASED ON CERTAIN RULINGS BY THE CHAIR, CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE GERMANE. BUT BECAUSE OF WHO IS TRYING TO MAKE THE AMENDMENT TO THE BILL AND THE FACT THAT IT'S WANTED, IT WILL BE RULED GERMANE. SO I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT. YOU'RE TELLING ME, IF I UNDERSTAND YOU, THAT YOUR BILL, AS INTRODUCED, WOULD NOW BE CONSIDERED AN APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR...LET'S SAY IT'S LIKE A TRAIN AND THERE ARE THREE CARS THAT HAVE BEEN ADDED TO IT. AND THE THIRD CAR IS THE ONE THAT CREATES THE CASH

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

FUND. WITHOUT THOSE TWO INTERVENING CARS, THE CREATION OF THAT CASH FUND WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO BE ATTACHED TO THE TRAIN. DID I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY OR DID I MISUNDERSTAND YOU? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: MAYBE I NEED TO CLARIFY. WE MADE CHANGES TO AN EXISTING CASH FUND BILL, I SHOULD REMIND YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS, OUTSIDE OF CREATING A NEW... [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: ...CASH FUND AS PART OF LB450 THAT WAS INCORPORATED IN THE UNDERLYING BILL. SO I WOULD MAKE THE ARGUMENT, THE UNDERLYING BILL DEALT WITH AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE INCORPORATED, AS A COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, LB450, WHICH INVOLVES THE NEBRASKA TOURISM COMMISSION, MAKES CHANGES TO THEIR EXISTING FUNDING OR AUTHORITY IN REGARDS TO SOME CASH FUNDS THAT THEY CURRENTLY HAVE, AS WELL AS CREATES A NEW CASH FUND THAT IS SET ASIDE IN REGARDS TO HOW THEY CAN ESSENTIALLY APPROPRIATE AND SPEND OTHER MONEY THAT THEY RECEIVE. [LB449 LB450]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR MELLO, WHERE CAN THESE SIGNS BE POSTED WHICH YOU JUST SUPPORTED ALLOWING TO BE POSTED? CAN THEY BE POSTED ALONG THE INTERSTATE? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR CHAMBERS, MY UNDERSTANDING, FROM READING SENATOR BRASCH'S AMENDMENT, IS THAT THE SIGNS THAT ARE BEING REQUESTED ESSENTIALLY HAVE TO BE...HAVE TO COME FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: IN REGARDS TO WHERE THEY CHOOSE TO PUT THOSE SIGNS, IS GOING TO BE ULTIMATELY LEFT UP TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION IN REGARDS TO THEM APPROVING... [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: ...THE SIGN IN THE FIRST PLACE. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. READING THE FISCAL NOTE ON THIS LB449, I'M CONFUSED. I WONDER IF SENATOR MELLO WOULD ANSWER A QUESTION...YIELD TO... [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: OF COURSE. [LB449]

SENATOR GROENE: SENATOR MELLO, I'VE BEEN READING THE FISCAL NOTE. AND IT'S PROBABLY A SIMPLE ANSWER, BUT HOW DO YOU INCREASE THE MICROLOAN FUNDS FROM \$1 MILLION TO \$2 MILLION AND NOT HAVE A FISCAL NOTE? WHERE DO THOSE FUNDS GENERATE FROM? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: IT'S THE FUNDING LEVEL WITHIN THE EXISTING APPROPRIATION, SENATOR GROENE. ROUGHLY THERE'S ABOUT \$7 MILLION APPROPRIATED TO THE BUSINESS INNOVATION ACT NOW. AND THERE ARE CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS OR CAPS PUT ON A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT PROGRAMS WITHIN THE OVERALL ACT. WHAT WE WERE DOING WITH LB449 WAS INCREASING THE CAP, SO TO SPEAK, ON THE SMALL BUSINESS COMPONENT. [LB449]

SENATOR GROENE: ANOTHER QUESTION THEN: IF THERE'S \$7 MILLION, I'M ASSUMING IT HAD A PURPOSE IN THE PAST. IF YOU TOOK...SHIFTED A MILLION TO THIS MICROLOANS, DID YOU LOWER SOME OTHER CAPS ON SOME OTHER PROGRAMS? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: ONCE AGAIN, SENATOR BRASCH HAD A SEPARATE BILL BROUGHT ON BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT CREATED EVEN MORE FLEXIBILITY WITHIN THOSE CAPS THAT GAVE THE DEPARTMENT, I WOULD SAY, A GENERAL...GENERALLY, JUST MORE FLEXIBILITY OF HOW THEY WANTED TO SPEND SOME OF THE GRANT DOLLARS IN THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS. SO WE SPECIFICALLY TARGETED ONE PROGRAM, THE SMALL BUSINESS...THE SMALL BUSINESS COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM, WHICH IS SEPARATE. THAT'S IN LB449. SENATOR BRASCH'S BILL INCORPORATED OTHER

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

COMPONENTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT ALSO REQUESTED FLEXIBILITY ON.
[LB449]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THERE'S \$7 MILLION AND YOU'VE RAISED THE LIMIT ON THE MICROLOANS, BUT IT'S UP TO THE DEPARTMENT TO STAY WITHIN \$7 MILLION AND THEN SPREAD THE MONEY AROUND FROM THERE. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS "SEMICORRECT." IT'S NOT ABOUT MICROLOANS. IT'S MICROENTERPRISE, OR SMALL BUSINESSES, WHICH PROVIDES LOANS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. SO THE SMALL BUSINESS MICROENTERPRISE COMPONENT IS INCREASED TO THAT CAP, BUT IT DOESN'T APPROPRIATE ANY MORE MONEY TO THE EXISTING PROGRAM. [LB449]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. THEN I'LL ASSUME THAT DOESN'T MEAN NECESSARILY THEY WILL LOAN \$2 MILLION AND THEY WILL DECIDE WHERE THEY WANT TO SPEND THE \$7 MILLION OR JUST DIVIDE IT UP AMONGST THE APPLICANTS. THANK YOU. I JUST WONDERED WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THESE ARE SIGNS OF THE TIMES AND I FIND THEM INTERESTING AND MORE SO AS WE GO ALONG. I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR MELLO A FEW MORE QUESTIONS. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: OF COURSE. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR MELLO, YOU DRIVE BACK AND FORTH ON THE HIGHWAY EVERY DAY, AS I DO. SO THERE'S THE TRAVEL PORTION, THEN THE SHOULDER, AND THEN THERE MAY BE SOME LAND THAT EITHER FALLS AWAY, GOING DOWN, OR RISING A BIT. BUT, ANYWAY, HOW FAR FROM THE INTERSTATE MUST ONE OF THESE SIGNS BE THAT YOU ALL JUST AGREED TO ALLOW THESE LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO ERECT IF THEY CAN AFFORD A COMPLIANT AND PLIABLE COMMISSION TO ALLOW THEM? WHAT... [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR... [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: GO AHEAD. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR CHAMBERS, I'M NOT...IF YOU READ THE AMENDMENT THAT WAS JUST ADOPTED, AM1383, I DO NOT BELIEVE THE AMENDMENT SPECIFICALLY SAID IN THE AMENDMENT THE EXACT AMOUNT OF FEET FROM A HIGHWAY, SO TO SPEAK, THAT THE TOURISM HIGHWAY MARKER MUST BE DESIGNATED. I KNOW THE AMENDMENT STATES THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS MUST ESSENTIALLY ERECT THE HIGHWAY MARKER AND MAINTAIN THE HIGHWAY MARKER, WHICH MY BELIEF GENERALLY IS ANY HIGHWAY MARKER THAT EXISTS OR HIGHWAY SIGN, THAT DETERMINATION IS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS, WHICH I BELIEVE THE UNDERLYING COMMITTEE...OR THE UNDERLYING AMENDMENT FROM SENATOR BRASCH STILL GIVES THAT AND KEEPS THAT AUTHORITY WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IF I MAY CONTINUE, SENATOR BRASCH TALKED ABOUT BEING ABLE TO BEG MONEY TO BUILD, ERECT THESE SIGNS. BUT YOU JUST SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS HAS TO MAINTAIN THEM. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: THE AMENDMENT THAT WE ADOPTED SPECIFICALLY SAYS THAT. I'LL READ IT HERE: SHALL ERECT AND MAINTAIN HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKERS AND SHALL DETERMINE THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKERS WITH CONSIDERATION GIVEN FOR SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO IF, THEORETICALLY, THERE WERE 1,000 OF THESE SIGNS GOING FROM THE EASTERN PART OF THE STATE TO THE WESTERN PART, THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS WOULD HAVE THE EXPENSE OF MAINTAINING ALL OF THOSE SIGNS. ISN'T THAT TRUE? BASED ON THE LANGUAGE YOU READ, IT SAID THEY SHALL ERECT AND MAINTAIN. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: I BELIEVE, SENATOR CHAMBERS, IF YOU READ SECTION (4) OF AM1383, IT SPECIFICALLY SAYS, "THE COMMISSION MAY SECURE PAYMENT TO THE STATE FOR THE ACTUAL REPLACEMENT COST OF ANY HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKERS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED, ACCIDENTALLY OR OTHERWISE." MY UNDERSTANDING OF SENATOR BRASCH'S AMENDMENT, WHICH MY OFFICE WORKED WITH HER OFFICE TO TRY TO CLARIFY SOME COMPONENTS, WAS THAT

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

THE COMMUNITY THAT WOULD BE REQUESTING THESE TOURISM HIGHWAY MARKERS WOULD ESSENTIALLY BE THE SOLE ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR NOT ONLY PAYING FOR THE HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKER BUT ALSO THEN, IF YOU READ SECTION (4), ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPLACEMENT IF A SIGN LIKE THAT IS DAMAGED OR NEEDS TO BE REPLACED. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT REPLACING. I'M TALKING ABOUT MAINTAINING. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAINTAINING SOMETHING AND REPLACING SOMETHING. IF I MAINTAIN MY CAR, THAT MEANS I, IF YOU HAVE ONE THAT GETS TUNE-UPS BUT HAS ALL OF THE MAINTENANCE WORK DONE THAT THE MANUFACTURER RECOMMENDS. IF I REPLACE MY CAR, I GET A DIFFERENT VEHICLE. THE STATE IS GOING TO HAVE TO BEAR THE COST OF MAINTAINING THOSE SIGNS. YOU READ THAT. SO DOES THAT LANGUAGE MEAN ANYTHING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS SHALL ERECT AND MAINTAIN THESE SIGNS? DOES THAT MEAN WHAT IT SAYS? YES OR NO? YOUR HONOR, I BELIEVE THAT'S A YES OR NO QUESTION. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND I'LL BE YOUR HONOR. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: I BELIEVE THE...I BELIEVE, SENATOR CHAMBERS, IF YOU LOOK AT SECTION (2) OF THE AMENDMENT, IT SPECIFICALLY SAYS UNDER (D) THAT "PRESERVE, REPLACE, OR MODIFY HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKERS." SO THE COMMISSION ULTIMATELY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THE MAINTENANCE, EVEN THOUGH IT SAYS THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS PHYSICALLY WILL BE THE ONES THAT HAVE TO DO THAT, BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS DOES THAT RIGHT NOW. YOU DON'T HAVE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OR THE PAROLE BOARD OUT ON STATE HIGHWAYS ERECTING STATE HIGHWAY MARKERS OR SIGNS. SO THE PLAIN...MY UNDERSTANDING, THE PLAIN READING OF THE AMENDMENT WOULD MEAN THE COMMISSION HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO REPLACE ANY DAMAGED SIGN, TO PRESERVE IT, MAINTAIN IT. THEY'VE GOT TO GET FUNDING, PRIVATE FUNDING TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT. IT'S NOT STATE FUNDING. BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS ULTIMATELY IS THE ONE THAT WILL HAVE TO PHYSICALLY PUT UP THE SIGN AND, ARGUABLY, TAKE DOWN THE SIGN OR MAKE ANY CHANGE TO IT, SO TO SPEAK, IN A PHYSICAL SENSE. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT BETWEEN THESE TWO ITEMS, DESPITE EVERYTHING YOU'VE SAID, THERE'S A CONFLICT, ISN'T THERE? [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WAIVE. [LB449]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR McCOLLISTER WAIVES. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND I KNOW THIS IS MY THIRD TIME. [LB449]

SENATOR HADLEY: IT IS. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR MELLO, I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE, IF YOU WILL. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: OF COURSE. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I SEE A CONFLICT AND YOU DON'T. YOU READ THE LANGUAGE. I HAVEN'T READ ANY OF IT. I'M JUST GOING BY WHAT YOU READ TO ME. YOU READ THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS SHALL ERECT AND MAINTAIN. YOU DID NOT READ IN SENATOR BRASCH'S LANGUAGE WHERE IT SAYS, NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT THAT YOU READ, THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS SHALL NOT MAINTAIN THESE SIGNS, BUT THESE COMMUNITIES SHALL MAINTAIN THEM, WHICH MEANS THEY CAN FALL INTO DISREPAIR IF THE COMMUNITY CAN'T BEG ENOUGH MONEY TO KEEP THEM INTACT. SUPPOSE A COMMUNITY CANNOT BEG ENOUGH MONEY TO TAKE CARE OF THESE SIGNS. THEN THEY JUST FALL INTO DISREPAIR, DON'T THEY, BECAUSE YOU'VE JUST POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS IS NOT THE ONE TO MAINTAIN THEM ANYMORE. ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU TOLD ME? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: I DO NOT BELIEVE, SENATOR CHAMBERS, I SAID THAT SPECIFICALLY. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THEN LET ME ASK A QUESTION. IS IT THE MANDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS TO MAINTAIN THESE SIGNS? YES OR NO? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: ERECT AND MAINTAIN THE HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKERS, I BELIEVE IT SAYS. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YEAH, SO THE... [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: BUT, SENATOR CHAMBERS, IT SAYS IN THE BILL, BOTH IN SECTION (2) AND IN SECTION (4) THAT THE NEBRASKA TOURISM COMMISSION WILL BE THE ENTITY THAT SECURES THE FUNDING ASSOCIATED WITH ALL OF THE COMPONENTS SURROUNDING THESE HISTORICAL MARKERS. SO WHILE THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS HAS TO ERECT AND MAINTAIN IT, THE FUNDING ASSOCIATED WITH THAT MAINTENANCE COMES FROM THE TOURISM COMMISSION. AND THE TOURISM COMMISSION MAY SECURE PAYMENT FOR ANY OF THESE CHANGES, BOTH IN THE ERECTION AND/OR PRESERVATION OF THESE SIGNS, FROM A COMMUNITY OR PRIVATE ENTITY. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IF THE COMMISSION CANNOT BEG THIS MONEY, AND THIS BILL TALKS ABOUT BEGGING MONEY, IF THEY CANNOT BEG ENOUGH MONEY TO MAINTAIN THE SIGNS, THEY FALL INTO DISREPAIR, BASED ON WHAT YOU SAID, BECAUSE IT'S UP TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND NOT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS TO MAINTAIN IT. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: I... [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I WON'T GO ON BECAUSE WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANYWHERE. I WANT THAT A MATTER OF RECORD. AND I WANT YOU TO SEE HOW PEOPLE WILL RUN INTO A BIND AND THERE WILL BE AN OBVIOUS CONFLICT WHEN YOU READ THE LANGUAGE. THERE'S NOTHING THAT MAKES AN AMENDMENT TO WHAT SENATOR MELLO READ ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINING THE SIGNS. I DIDN'T READ THAT; HE DID. NOW HE'S GOT TO FIX IT BECAUSE HE AGREED TO AN AMENDMENT THAT MADE NO REFERENCE TO THAT PROVISION. BUT SOMEHOW THIS THAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT AMENDS THAT. THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT SAID YOU DON'T AMEND A STATUTE BY IMPLICATION. IF YOU'RE CHANGING IT, YOU HAVE TO SAY IT. THEN IN YOUR REPEALER CLAUSE, YOU HAVE TO REPEAL THAT ORIGINAL PROVISION AFTER YOU HAVE MADE REFERENCE TO IT AND MODIFIED IT. I'M GOING TO LEAVE THAT TO YOU GENIUSES. I...LET ME CONCEDE THIS. YOU ALL KNOW MORE ABOUT BILL

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

DRAFTING THAN I DO. I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND. I MISUNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE. YOU ALL KNOW, SO I WILL BOW TO YOU-ALL'S SUPERIOR WISDOM AND ACKNOWLEDGE. AND ONCE AGAIN, YOU HAVE AN EXCELLENT PIECE OF LEGISLATION, WHICH EVERY PIECE FITS EVERY OTHER PIECE THE WAY IT SHOULD. THEY ARE ALL IN SYNCHRONIZATION AND IT WORKS VERY SMOOTHLY. AND I'VE HAD MY EDUCATION IMPROVED THIS AFTERNOON. I JUST HOPE THERE'S NOBODY WHO GIVES ME AN EXAMINATION ON IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. MEMBERS OF THE BODY, I THINK SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS HIT ON SOMETHING. THERE ARE A WHOLE LOT OF TOWNS, IN FACT, THE MAJORITY, VAST MAJORITY OF OUR COMMUNITIES ARE UNDER 1,000 POPULATION. ALMOST EVERY ONE OF THEM IS STRUGGLING FOR SOME TYPE OF EXISTENCE AND PROBABLY LOSING POPULATION HAND OVER FIST. NOW, IMAGINE THE RACE TO THE BOTTOM. COMMUNITY ONE SAYS, YOU KNOW, WE WANT A SIGN SAYING, COME WATCH MILLIE QUILT AT ARAPAHOE'S QUILTING...HISTORIC QUILTING SHOP. NOT TO BE OUTDONE, DOWN THE ROAD SOMEBODY SAYS, COME SEE THE STUFFED TURTLE AT JOE'S BAR IN TRENTON. AND DOWN THE ROAD A LITTLE FROM THAT IS A SIGN SAYING, WHAT ABOUT PETE'S WOOD BURNING SHOP, HISTORIC WOOD BURNING DONE IN THE TOWN OF MADRID? I MEAN, WHERE DO YOU CUT IT OFF? AND SO WE HAVE THESE SIGNS ALL OVER ADVERTISING LOCAL BUSINESS. AND IF I'M A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN IN A SMALL TOWN, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I'M GOING TO GO TO MY TOWN BOARD AND I'M GOING TO SAY, FOLKS, YOU KNOW, THIS TOWN IS ADVERTISING THAT BUSINESS AND THIS TOWN THAT BUSINESS AND, GOLLY, GEE WHIZ, I THINK MY GRAIN ELEVATOR IS HISTORIC AND IT REALLY DESERVES SOME ATTENTION BECAUSE I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE 1902 AND WAS THE FIRST ONE ON THIS PIECE OF RAILROAD. SO CAN I HAVE A SIGN? AND AT WHAT POINT DO WE JUST REALLY HAVE A WHOLE LOT OF MAKE-BELIEVE SIGNS FOR EVERY IMAGINABLE BUSINESS ALL ACROSS THE STATE POKING UP ALONG OUR ROADS? AND HOW CAN THE TOURISM COMMISSION, ONCE IT BLESSES THE FIRST ONE, SAY NO TO THE SECOND ONE, BECAUSE THE SECOND ONE'S STORY WILL BE JUST AS GOOD AS THE FIRST ONE'S? AND ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU'LL THINK YOU'RE IN REVENUE COMMITTEE AND EVERYBODY COMING FOR AN EXEMPTION TO YOU. SO I THINK SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS RAISED A REALLY

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

GOOD POINT. YOU OPEN UP THIS DOOR WITHOUT ANY CRITERIA AND WE'RE GOING TO SEE ALL KINDS OF SIGNS. AND MAYBE IT'S A GOOD THING. MAYBE IT WILL HELP SAVE THE SMALL TOWNS. ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE IT WILL JUST MEAN SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE SIGN BUSINESS. THANK YOU. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. AND I DO WANT TO TAKE...THANK SENATOR MELLO FOR THE ATTENTION AND FOCUS AND THE CONSTANT QUESTIONING. QUESTIONS ARE GOOD. I APPRECIATE THE QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CHAMBERS AND SENATOR SCHUMACHER. HOWEVER, THESE SIGNS DO NOT PROLIFERATE ON THEIR OWN. THEY HAVE TO GO THROUGH A COMMITTEE. THEY HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS, WHICH ARE THE FINAL LINE ON HOW MANY FEET FROM THE HIGHWAY, HOW HIGH, PUBLIC SAFETY. ALL OF THE REGULATIONS THAT GO WITH SIGNS COMES THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS. AND ALSO ON THE UPKEEP OF THESE SIGNS, THEY ARE VESTED BY A COMMUNITY WHO PAID TO PUT THESE SIGNS UP, NOT JUST GENERAL TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS. BUT THEY TOOK THE TIME TO TAKE PRIDE AND JOY. THEY RAN THROUGH THE PROCESS WHICH WENT THROUGH THE COMMISSION. AND THEN THE COMMISSION HAD TO GO THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS FOR FINAL VETTING OF IS IT LEGAL, IS IT SAFE, IS IT PROPER, DOES IT INTERFERE. I BELIEVE THESE SIGNS WILL BE BETTER KEPT THAN OUR TRADITIONAL DEPARTMENT OF ROAD SIGNS WHERE YOU DRIVE BY AND IT'S NOT MY SIGN, IT'S NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY. THEY WILL HAVE A SENSE OF PARTNERSHIP AND OWNERSHIP IN THESE SPECIFIC SIGNS. AND THESE SIGNS, AGAIN, ARE BEING PART OF A PARTNERSHIP THAT IS WITH THE COMMUNITY THAT IS REQUESTING THEM, NOT OUT OF OUR TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS, WITH OVERSIGHT. AND MY GUESS WOULD BE THAT IT'S GOING TO HAVE BETTER CARE BECAUSE SOMEONE, WHETHER IT'S THE SCOUT TROOP OR ANOTHER ORGANIZATION THAT FELT THAT SIGN WAS VALUABLE AND A BENEFIT TO THEIR COMMUNITY, BRINGING TOURISTS IN, BEING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THEM AS A MEANS OF HAVING SOMEONE STOP AT THE CAFE OR FILL UP THEIR GAS TANK OR STOP AT THE FIVE-AND-TEN DIME STORE. I BELIEVE THAT THESE SIGNS WILL BE OF ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITIES, AND THE COMMUNITIES WHO INVESTED MONETARILY AND WENT THROUGH THE PROCESS WILL BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THESE SIGNS. THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I'LL YIELD MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, 5 MINUTES. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. I HAD PUT A MOTION UP THERE JUST SO I'D HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK. AND I'VE EXPLAINED IT TO SENATOR MELLO. HE SAID HE WOULD GIVE ME SOME TIME, SO I'M NOT GOING TO GO THROUGH THAT MOTION. BUT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE THING I REGRET ABOUT THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE HERE, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WAIT ME OUT AND I'LL SPEAK MY THREE TIMES. THEN PEOPLE BEGIN TO SAY THINGS AND I CANNOT RESPOND, SO THEN I'M LEFT WITH THE ONLY EXPEDIENT, WHICH IS TO OFFER MOTIONS OR AN AMENDMENT. AND THAT'S WHAT I WILL DO IF I HAVE TO. BUT THIS IS A MORE SERIOUS THING THAN I BELIEVE PEOPLE CONSIDER IT TO BE. SENATOR SCHUMACHER GAVE SOME EXAMPLES. SUPPOSE ONE OF THESE LITTLE TOWNS DOESN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO DO ANYTHING WITH THIS SIGN ONCE IT'S THERE? THEN THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HAS TO MAINTAIN THE SIGN. SENATOR MELLO READ THAT. I'M NOT GOING TO PUT HIM THROUGH THAT SERIES OF QUESTIONS BECAUSE WE'LL WIND UP RIGHT BACK WHERE WE ARE NOW, LIKE THAT GUY WHO'S IN HOTEL CALIFORNIA. HE SAID HE WAS RUNNING TOWARD THE DOOR BUT THEN HE ALWAYS WOUND UP RIGHT WHERE HE WAS BEFORE, AND THEN THE GUY AT THE DESK CHIRPED, DESK; THE DESK CLERK SAYS, YOU CAN SIGN OUT WHENEVER YOU WANT TO, BUT YOU CAN NEVER LEAVE. AND THAT'S WHERE I AM. I'M AT THE HOTEL CALIFORNIA. I'M GETTING NOWHERE, BUT EVERYBODY ELSE IS GETTING SOMEWHERE. THOSE VOICES THAT I KEEP HEARING IN THE DISTANCE, WELCOME TO THE HOTEL CALIFORNIA, AND EVERYBODY ELSE UNDERSTANDS THESE THINGS, BUT I DON'T. SO I'M OUT OF SYNC. I'M OUT OF STEP. BUT I HAVE TO OPERATE ACCORDING TO MY OWN LIGHTS. I HAVE TO MARCH, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, TO THE DRUMMER THAT I HEAR. AND I SEE MY COLLEAGUES HASTENING TO ADOPT AN AMENDMENT AND WHEN IT'S BEING DISCUSSED, RATHER THAN OUR DEALING WITH THE LANGUAGE IN THE EXISTING LAW IN THIS AMENDMENT, THEN THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT BECOME DEFENSIVE AND WE'RE NOT DISCUSSING THE AMENDMENT AT ALL. WE'RE NOT DISCUSSING THE RAMIFICATIONS AT ALL. WHY SHOULD I EVEN CARE? THESE LITTLE TOWNS ARE OUT THERE WHERE YOU ALL LIVE. MAYBE I TAKE MORE PRIDE IN WHAT THE STATE LOOKS LIKE THROUGHOUT THE STATE THAN THE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE STATE. AND MAYBE, FOR ALL WE KNOW, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD COULD GET A SIGN AND SAY, COME LOOK AT MY GOATS. AND MAYBE THEY'D SAY, WELL, YEAH, WE DID IT FOR SO-AND-SO, AS "PROFESSOR" SCHUMACHER POINTED OUT. AND AS FOR SENATOR BRASCH CONTINUING TO MENTION THIS COMMISSION, WE HAVE AN OIL AND GAS COMMISSION WHO TOLD THE LEGISLATURE TO GO TO HADES. THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD US. AND I'M GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT I INTEND TO DO. I'M GOING TO HAVE A BILL DRAFTED. THEN I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN GET THE LEGISLATURE TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND LET ME INTRODUCE THAT BILL SO THAT EVERY ONE OF THESE OUTFITS THAT USES THIS STATE FOR A LATRINE, WHERE OUR RURAL BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE AND HAVE NO ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION, BECAUSE THE OIL AND GAS COMMISSION DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THEM. AND THIS BILL, WHEN IT BECOMES LAW, WILL MANDATE THAT EVERY ONE OF THESE OUTFITS THAT DUMPS THEIR WASTEWATER... [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...IN NEBRASKA HAS TO EXPOSE, REVEAL, DISCLOSE EVERY CHEMICAL IN THAT WASTE MATERIAL. SO IF THERE IS AN ACCIDENT, A TRUCK SPILLS, OR THERE'S BREAKAGE IN ALL OF THIS IMPREGNABLE CONSTRUCTION THEY'RE PUTTING UNDER THE GROUND, THOSE WHO COME TO IT WILL KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DEALING WITH. AND IF THEY DON'T WANT TO REVEAL IT, THEN DON'T LET THEM DUMP HERE. AND I'M WORKING OUT THE DETAILS, BUT I'M GOING TO GET THAT BILL DRAFTED AND I'M GOING TO OFFER IT. AND IT WILL BE A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND INTRODUCE THE BILL OUTSIDE OF THE TEN-DAY PERIOD, AND I'LL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IT. AND I WANT MY COLLEAGUES TO SHOW THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THAT PART OF THE STATE THAT THEY DON'T COUNT FOR ANYTHING. THIS COMPANY MAKING MONEY HAS A HIGHER LEVEL OF RESPECT BY THE MEMBERS OF THIS LEGISLATURE... [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...THAN THE CITIZENS WHO LIVE... [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'M SORRY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M STILL CONFUSED ON THIS, WHERE THIS MONEY COMES FROM. THANKS TO SENATOR HAAR. HE BROUGHT ME OVER A PAGE IN THE BUDGET: AGENCY 72, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AND THE ONLY POSSIBLE PLACE WE CAN SEE IN HERE WHERE THIS MONEY WOULD COME FROM, THIS \$7 MILLION OR \$2 MILLION, IS THE REAPPROPRIATION OF THE GENERAL AND CASH FUND OPERATING AND AID PROGRAM BALANCES. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REAPPROPRIATED UNEXPENDED BALANCES OF THE BUSINESS INNOVATION ACT, JOB TRAINING CASH FUND. IT'S ALL ZEROS. COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO ME, SENATOR MELLO, HOW WE MAKE \$2 MILLION OUT OF ZEROS IN THE BUDGET, PAGE 237? [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WOULD YOU YIELD, PLEASE? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: OF COURSE I'LL YIELD. WHAT WAS THE QUESTION AGAIN? [LB449]

SENATOR GROENE: COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO ME, ON PAGE 237 OUT OF THE BUDGET, HOW WE TURN, WHERE IT SAYS BALANCE OF BUSINESS INNOVATION ACT, JOB TRAINING CASH FUND, AND SITE AND BUILDING DEVELOPMENT FUND ON PAGE 237, HOW WE GET \$2 MILLION OUT OF ZEROS? THE TWO COLUMNS ARE ZERO. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: WELL, SENATOR GROENE, WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT IS A REAPPROPRIATION OF UNEXPENDED FUNDS AT THE END OF THE BIENNIUM THAT THE COMMITTEE ULTIMATELY REAPPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. NO DOUBT, IF YOU'LL LOOK THROUGH YOUR BUDGET BOOK, YOU WILL FIND THAT THERE IS A SPECIFIC LINE ITEM IN AGENCY 72 ON THE AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OR AID TO INDIVIDUALS COMPONENT OF THE BUDGET BOOK THAT SHOWS, ROUGHLY, THE \$7 MILLION IN AID TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT'S NOT LISTED UNDER THE AGENCY BECAUSE IT'S NOT A NEW APPROPRIATION. IT'S A CONTINUATION OF AN APPROPRIATION WHICH OTHERWISE IS LISTED IN THE BUDGET BOOK BUT...IT'S LISTED IN THE BUDGET BILL BUT, ARGUABLY, NOT IN THE BUDGET BOOK SINCE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT NEW APPROPRIATIONS AND/OR DECREASES IN APPROPRIATIONS. THE UNDERLYING BILL, AS I WILL REMIND EVERYONE, BOTH LOOKING AT THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT AS WELL AS LOOKING AT THE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

UNDERLYING TESTIMONY I GAVE ON GENERAL FILE, LB449 DOES NOT APPROPRIATE ANY NEW MONEY TO THE BUSINESS INNOVATION ACT, WHICH CURRENTLY RECEIVES \$7 MILLION IN AID FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IT IS CHANGING THE ALLOCATION ALLOTMENT FOR MICROENTERPRISE UNDER THE CONCEPT OF THE BILL. [LB449]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: IT IS NOT INCREASING ANY NEW FUNDING. [LB449]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. I'M JUST GETTING THE HANG OF THIS BUDGET BOOK. CONSIDERING I GOT TO BE AN EXPERT ON IT IN TWO DAYS AND I JUST GOT IT THIS MORNING, YOU'VE GOT TO EXCUSE ME A LITTLE BIT, SINCE I RAN FOR OFFICE TO LOOK AT FINANCES AND MAKE SURE SPENDING WAS UNDER CONTROL AND LIMITED GOVERNMENT. SO I'M GOING TO CONTINUE TO HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BEAR WITH ME, SENATOR MELLO. SO THANK YOU. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE AND SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES. TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, SENATOR CHAMBERS' COMMENTS ARE WELL-TAKEN. THIS ISSUE IS KIND OF A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD. I SUPPORT THE IDEA OF THE SIGNS, BUT IT'S A LITTLE WORRISOME, HAVING BEEN ON BOTH SIDES OF IT, BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT ARE ADVOCATING FOR THE SIGNS. AND I KNOW WE HAVE ADVANCED THIS AMENDMENT SO IT'S JUST MAYBE A MOOT POINT AT THIS POINT. BUT I'VE ALSO SEEN WHERE COMMUNITIES HAVE PUT UP SIGNS AND THEN HAVE GOT A LITTLE BURNED OUT IN THE COMMUNITY EFFORT AND THE SIGN GOES INTO DISREPAIR. SO JUST ONE QUESTION TO SENATOR BRASCH, IF SHE WOULD YIELD. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR BRASCH, WOULD YOU YIELD, PLEASE? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: I WILL YIELD. [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: JUST TO ALLAY SOME CONCERNS THAT I HAVE, WHERE OVER TIME IS THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND WHO OR

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

WHATEVER ENTITY MIGHT PUT UP THE SIGN TO MAKE SURE THAT IT'S CONTINUED IN GOOD REPAIR OR EVEN WHETHER THE TOURISM ENTITY THAT THEY'RE ADVERTISING STILL EXISTS? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THAT IS A CONVERSATION THAT THE COMMISSION HAS WITH THE PROPOSED SIGN IN THAT COMMUNITY. AND THIS COMMISSION, IF YOU LOOK AT THE BILL, THAT IT WILL DETERMINE WHAT TOURISM ATTRACTIONS ARE SIGNIFICANT TO THE STATE--IS IT SIGNIFICANT. THEY EXPEND THE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKERS, DESIGNATE THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION. ANOTHER, ITEM (D) IS PRESERVE, REPLACE, OR MODIFY HIGHWAY TOURISM MARKERS. AND (E) IS ACCEPT GIFTS AND ENCOURAGE LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE ERECTION OF THESE HIGHWAY SIGNS THROUGH MATCHING GIFTS, MATCHING FUNDS. SUCH FUNDS SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE STATE VISITORS PROMOTION... [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: SO YOU THINK THAT THERE WILL BE ENOUGH COMMUNICATION TO MAKE SURE THAT... [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: ABSOLUTELY. [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: OKAY. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THEY NEED APPROVAL. [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: OKAY. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: IT'S NOT THEIR... [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: BUT WHAT IF THAT HAPPENS? WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SIGN GOES UP? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: OKAY. ALL RIGHT. ONCE THE SIGN...WELL, AND THE SIGN DOESN'T EVEN GO UP YET. THEN IT HAS TO GO TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS FOR FINAL JURISDICTION ON SAFETY POSITION. [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: BUT WHAT HAPPENS THEN AFTER IT'S UP? WHO OVERSEES, OTHER THAN THE COMMUNITY, TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT TOURISM

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

ATTRACTION IS STILL GOING ON, IT'S STILL VIABLE, IT TRULY IS AN ATTRACTION? [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THE COMMUNITY HAS FIRST INVESTMENT IN IT. HOWEVER, THE ROADS, LIKE MAINTAINING EVERY OTHER SIGN, IF THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS FINDS IT PROBLEMATIC, IT COULD GO BACK TO THE... YOU KNOW, THE COMMUNITY COULD TAKE IT DOWN IF IT IS AN EYESORE. [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: OKAY. ALL RIGHT. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: AGAIN, THEY'VE SPENT THEIR OWN MONEY ON THESE SIGNS... [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: OKAY. ALL RIGHT. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: ...AND THAT'S WHAT I THINK WILL... [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: YEAH. [LB449]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: AND I'LL YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, 1 MINUTE AND 49 SECONDS. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, SENATOR SULLIVAN. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I DON'T LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN. BUT I'VE HEARD A LOT OF SONGS ABOUT THEM AND I HAVE STAYED AT ONE OF THOSE HOLIDAY INNS. AND IN SMALL TOWNS THERE CAN BE VERY ACRIMONIOUS GRUDGES AND BATTLES. AND SOME PEOPLE IN THE TOWN MAY DISLIKE WHOEVER GOT THE SIGN UP ORIGINALLY AND THERE COULD BE CONTENTION. AND THEN WHO'S GOING TO MAKE A DECISION THAT THIS SIGN SHOULD NO LONGER STAY THERE? WHY CREATE ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS UNNECESSARILY AS A FAVOR? WE ARE THE STATE. WE ARE NOT A PTA. WE ARE NOT A SMALL COMMUNITY. WE ARE TO TAKE THE BROAD, PANORAMIC VIEW

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

THAT EMBRACES THE ENTIRE STATE, AND WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THESE LITTLE TICKY-TACKY SIGNS TO BE PUT UP. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IT'S BEING DONE NOW AS A FAVOR. THAT'S WHY THIS AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED IN THE FIRST PLACE. AND NOW THERE ARE THINGS STARTING TO BE DISCUSSED. I DON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT THEM. IF THEY TRIED TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN OMAHA, WHICH I DON'T THINK THEY WOULD BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE, TOO MANY ORGANIZATIONS WHO SAY, WE DON'T WANT THAT JUNK ALONG HERE. IF THEY WANT TO NAME SOMETHING, LET THEM PUT A SIGN NEXT TO THEIR DRIVEWAY IN THEIR OWN YARD. BUT HERE, ALL OF A SUDDEN THOSE THINGS THAT WE KNOW BETTER THAN TO DO ARE DONE. I WILL NOT SUPPORT THE BILL. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANKS, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I GUESS A COUPLE POINTS OF CLARIFICATION TO SENATOR GROENE. WE DO HAVE 48 HOURS TO REVIEW THE BUDGET BOOK BEFORE WE START BUDGET DEBATE ON THURSDAY. I WOULD REMIND YOU AND DIRECT YOU TO YOUR RULES IN WHICH THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DID PROVIDE A PRELIMINARY BUDGET, WHICH THE BUDGET WE PRODUCED WAS BASED OFF OF, BACK ON DAY 40, ROUGHLY, GIVE OR TAKE. SO WE'VE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO REVIEW A NUMBER OF DECISIONS AND A NUMBER OF ASPECTS OF STATE FINANCES AND STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING FROM EARLIER IN THE SESSION UNTIL NOW. BUT I JUST WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT PRELIMINARY BUDGET HAS BEEN AVAILABLE FOR THE LAST 30 DAYS FOR THE LEGISLATURE TO REVIEW, ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT, AND MAKE DETERMINATIONS IN REGARD TO SOME PRELIMINARY DECISIONS THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY MADE. BACK TO I GUESS SENATOR BRASCH'S AMENDMENT THAT WE JUST ADOPTED, COLLEAGUES, I'LL DIRECT YOU TO THE LB571 FISCAL NOTE IN THE SENSE THAT BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY I DID MY DUE DILIGENCE OF LOOKING AT SENATOR BRASCH'S BILL BEFORE I GAVE HER THE OKAY TO RUN IT AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNDERLYING LB449. THE REALITY IS THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS DID NOT TESTIFY IN OPPOSITION TO THE BILL, EVEN THOUGH THEY KNEW THEY WERE GOING TO BE PUT IN CHARGE OF HAVING TO ERECT AND MAINTAIN SIGNS. AND THE REASON WHY, THROUGH I THINK SOME OF SENATOR

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CHAMBERS QUESTIONS, IS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS CAN BE REIMBURSED, ARGUABLY, FROM WHATEVER SIGN THEY PUT UP AND THEY CAN BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY MAINTENANCE OF THE SIGN. THAT SHOULD BE CLEAR, COLLEAGUES, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS, A CODE AGENCY I REMIND YOU, DID NOT OPPOSE THIS, BECAUSE THEY WILL BE REIMBURSED THROUGH THE TOURISM COMMISSION THROUGH THE STATE VISITORS CASH FUND. THAT LEADS ME PROBABLY TO THE POINT THAT I GUESS SENATOR SULLIVAN, SENATOR CHAMBERS, AND SENATOR SCHUMACHER JUST RAISED WITH SOME DIALOGUE ON THE FLOOR, WHICH THE NEBRASKA TOURISM COMMISSION, COLLEAGUES, IS NOT SIMPLY A AD HOC GROUP OF CONCERNED CITIZENS WHO MAY OR MAY NOT WANT TO SUPPORT RURAL COMMUNITIES BY PUTTING UP NEW SIGNS CELEBRATING LOCAL TOURIST EVENTS. THIS IS A STATE COMMISSION WITH EXPERTS IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY THAT WILL MAKE THE ULTIMATE DECISION OF WHETHER OR NOT A HISTORICAL OR A TOURISM OR HISTORICAL TOURISM MARKER WILL BE PLACED ON A HIGHWAY, DESIGNATING SOME TOURIST-RELATED ATTRACTION OR EVENT. THIS IS NOT NEW, COLLEAGUES. THE QUESTION I THINK SENATOR SULLIVAN ASKED SENATOR BRASCH WAS WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE SIGNS OF WHETHER OR NOT THE EVENT OCCURS OR THE ATTRACTION IS STILL THERE. IT'S THE NEBRASKA TOURISM COMMISSION. THEY ARE THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY SINCE THEY ARE GRANTING THIS COMMUNITY THE ABILITY TO HAVE A STATE SIGN RECOGNIZING SOME TOURIST ATTRACTION OR EVENT. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OR EVENTS SENATOR SCHUMACHER SAID THAT I THINK MINIMIZES THE CONCEPTS WE HAVE HERE. BUT I WOULD TELL YOU THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS ACROSS THE STATE, YES, PREDOMINANTLY IN RURAL PARTS OF OUR STATE, THAT IF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY, THROUGH THE TOURISM COMMISSION, WANT TO PROMOTE--OREGON TRAIL DAYS, FOR AN EXAMPLE-- WHAT WOULD BE OPPOSED TO FINDING THE FUNDING FROM THE COMMUNITY OR THE TOURISM INDUSTRY TO PROMOTE THAT EVENT THROUGH A SIGN THAT THE TOURISM COMMISSION APPROVES, SECURES FUNDING FOR, AND MAINTAINS FUNDING TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS IF IT NEEDS TO BE MAINTAINED OR IT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN DOWN AT SOME POINT IN TIME? COLLEAGUES, I APPRECIATE THE QUESTIONS ON AN AMENDMENT THAT WAS NOT MY AMENDMENT. BUT, BELIEVE ME, I HAD TO DO ENOUGH DUE DILIGENCE TO FULLY APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND WHAT SENATOR BRASCH'S ORIGINAL BILL DID, WHAT ITS INTENT WAS, AND TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE THAT THE STATE WILL BE NOT LIABLE, ARGUABLY, FOR ANY OF THESE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL TOURISM SIGNS AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS WILL HAVE THE APPROPRIATE FUNDING STREAM AVAILABLE TO MAINTAIN THEM AND/OR TO TAKE THEM DOWN IN CASE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

OF A SITUATION THAT YOU HAVE TO TAKE DOWN A SIGN BECAUSE THE EVENT LEAVES TOWN OR THE ATTRACTION IS NO LONGER THERE. I AM DISAPPOINTED TO SEE SENATOR CHAMBERS WON'T SUPPORT THE UNDERLYING BILL BECAUSE I THINK IT DOES AN AWFUL LOT OF GOOD FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN HIS DISTRICT AS WELL AS MINE AND ACROSS THE STATE. AND, YES, IT DOES HAVE AN IMPACT ON TOURISM... [LB449 LB571]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: ...THROUGH A COMPONENT THAT SENATOR BRASCH HAS ADDED TO THE UNDERLYING BILL AS WELL. BUT I THINK THE OVERALL BILL, EVEN WITH SENATOR BRASCH'S AMENDMENT, STILL PROVIDES AN AWFUL LOT OF GOOD, POSITIVE, TOURISM-RELATED ACTIVITY THAT'S A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AS WELL AS INCREASES SOME FLEXIBILITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN OUR STATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WONDER IF SENATOR MELLO WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WOULD YOU YIELD, PLEASE? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: ABSOLUTELY. [LB449]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: SENATOR MELLO, IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING WITH THIS AMENDMENT THAT IF THE COMMUNITY FAILED TO PROVIDE FUNDS, COULD NOT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS JUST SIMPLY TAKE THE SIGN DOWN AT THAT POINT RATHER THAN SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY TRYING TO MAINTAIN IT? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT WOULD BE COMPLETELY WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE TOURISM COMMISSION, ARGUABLY, THEN THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS. IF YOU READ THE LANGUAGE IN THE AMENDMENT AS WELL AS THE FISCAL NOTE ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNDERLYING BILL THAT WAS THE AMENDMENT, YOU'LL SEE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS AND THE TOURISM COMMISSION BOTH STATE THAT IT IS PURELY BASED UPON THE COMMUNITY OR

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

THE ENTITY TO PROVIDE THE FUNDING; THAT IT WILL NOT BE STATE FUNDING TO DEAL WITH ANY OF THIS, EITHER THE ERECTION OR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SIGNS. [LB449]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: SO I THINK YOU CONCUR WITH ME THAT WE WILL NOT BE PLACING A BURDEN ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS TO FINANCIALLY TAKE CARE OF THESE SIGNS, BECAUSE THEY CAN TAKE THEM DOWN IF ALL ELSE FAILS. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB449]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS...I WON'T SAY EXACTLY THAT'S THE WAY I WOULD SAY IT, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. BUT YOU'RE HITTING THE CHORD, ESSENTIALLY THE SAME CHORD, MAYBE JUST A DIFFERENT...MAYBE JUST A DIFFERENT LINE. THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS, IN THE FISCAL NOTE, SPECIFICALLY SAYS THERE WILL BE A COST TO DO THIS. THAT'S NOT DEBATABLE. THAT IS WHAT THEY PUT FORWARD IN THEIR FISCAL NOTE ON THEIR IMPACT. IT SAYS THOUGH THAT THEY WILL BE REIMBURSED FOR ALL OF THAT. SO ANY ACTIVITY THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS WILL DO, THEY'RE GOING TO BE REIMBURSED THROUGH THE TOURISM COMMISSION TO DO THAT. THE TOURISM COMMISSION IS NOT GOING TO APPROVE ANYTHING WITHOUT GETTING UP-FRONT FUNDING, WHICH IS SPECIFICALLY STATED IN THE AMENDMENT WE JUST ADOPTED. [LB449]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, SENATOR. COLLEAGUES, I CAN ENVISION SIGNS THAT MENTION THE WINNEBAGO INDIAN POWWOW. IT'S A BIG THING FOR NATIVE AMERICANS. I THINK A SIGN UP ADVERTISING THAT, HAPPENS EVERY YEAR, WOULD BE A GOOD THING. AND IF AFTER ALL THE TIME WE'VE HAD THEM NOW THEY DECIDE NOT TO HAVE THEM ANYMORE, THE FUNDING WOULD GO AWAY. THE TOURISM COMMISSION IS GOING TO TAKE THEM DOWN. I STILL LIKE THE AMENDMENT THAT WE PASSED. AND, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU REALLY SHOULD COME BY AND SEE THE GOATS. AND, MR. PRESIDENT, I'D YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO THE GUY IN THE BACK WITH THE BLACK HAIR-- I CAN'T THINK OF HIS NAME (LAUGHTER)--SENATOR MELLO. THAT LETS YOU OUT, CHAMBERS. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR MELLO, 2 MINUTES 19 SECONDS. HE WAIVES THE USE OF THE TIME. SENATOR JOHNSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR JOHNSON: I KNEW YOU WEREN'T LOOKING AT ME. I'M NOT IN THE BACK ANYWAY. BUT ANYWAY, I'M NOT GOING TO ASK A QUESTION OF ANYBODY BUT I'M JUST GOING TO RELATE BACK TO, WELL, I DID SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT AND I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO MY DAYS AS MAYOR AND WE STARTED WORKING ON SIGNAGE FOR OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE WE KNEW WE WERE GOING TO HAVE A NEW STATE HIGHWAY GOING AROUND IT. AND CERTAIN THINGS CAME UP AS THEY DISCUSSED THE CITY REGULATIONS AND WHAT THE CITY COULD IMPOSE FOR REGULATIONS: THE SIZE OF THE SIGN, THE HEIGHT OF THE SIGN, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE SIGNS, LIGHTING, AND SHOULD THERE BE AN ANNUAL FEE, WHO HANDLES THE EXPENSE OF IT. THAT'S SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE AT THE STATE LEVEL. THEN WHEN YOU LOOK AND START LOOKING AT THE...OR AT THE CITY LEVEL. EXCUSE ME. AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS HAS A SET OF RULES THAT THEY HAVE TO COMPLY WITH FOR STATE IN ORDER TO GET FUNDING. IF THEY'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING WITH A FEDERAL HIGHWAY OR ALONG A FEDERAL ROAD OR HIGHWAY, THERE'S A LOT MORE REGULATIONS THAT GET INVOLVED. I DO KNOW THAT WHEN I WAS PUTTING UP SOME CAMPAIGN SIGNS, YOUR 4' BY 8', I LEARNED A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THE RULES. IF YOU'RE GOING TO PUT A SIGN UP ON A FEDERAL HIGHWAY, YOU GOT TO BE 600 FEET OFF OF THE RIGHT OF WAY AND YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A PERMIT AND YOU GOT TO HAVE AN ANNUAL FEE. WE DID NOT PUT ANY BIG SIGNS UP. STATE HIGHWAY, YOU'RE STILL REGULATED TO BE OFF OF THE PROPERTY LINE OF THE EASEMENT, AND YOU STILL HAVE A TIME TABLE, UNLESS YOU GO THROUGH SOME HOOPS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS. RECENTLY, IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO, THERE'S BEEN A MOVE TO START SIGNAGE ALONG HIGHWAY 6, AS THE HISTORIC HIGHWAY THROUGH NEBRASKA. IT GOES FROM COAST TO COAST. IT TOUCHES A LOT OF DISTRICTS AND A LOT OF COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. AND SO WE'VE MET WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS ABOUT THAT SIGNAGE. HISTORIC HIGHWAY 6 HAS TWO ROUTES--THE ORIGINAL ROUTE AND NOW THE PAVED ROUTE--AND THEY'RE DIFFERENT. THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS SAYS, WE WILL PUT UP THE SIGNS, WE WILL PUT THEM UP IN THE PROPER SPACE, WE WILL HAVE A FEE PER SIGN, BUT YOU WILL FURNISH THE SIGNS FOR US AND HERE'S THE STIPULATIONS OF WHAT THAT SIGN NEEDS TO LOOK AT...LOOK LIKE. SO IT'S A BRIGHT REFLECTIVE PAINT ON IT, THINGS LIKE THAT. SO IT IS A VERY CONTROLLED INDUSTRY. SO WE'RE LOOKING AT HISTORIC HIGHWAY 6 AND LOOKING AT THE CURRENT ROUTE, WHICH IS PAVED THROUGH NEBRASKA. NOW IF A COMMUNITY WANTS TO GO BACK TO THEIR HISTORIC HIGHWAY 6, WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE ROUTE THROUGH TOWN, THEN THERE'S A TOTALLY NEW SET OF REGULATIONS THAT HAVE TO BE INVOLVED. SO TO WORRY ABOUT THESE LITTLE SIGNS THAT ARE GOING TO BE HERE AND THERE, I KNOW YOU CAN PUT

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

UP A SIGN FOR AN EVENT IF IT'S NOT OUT THERE MORE THAN 30 DAYS, AND THAT CAN BE MAYBE SOME MICKEY MOUSE TYPE SIGNS. BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO PUT UP ANY KIND OF PERMANENT SIGNAGE AND GO THROUGH THE WORK OF GOING THROUGH THE TOURISM COMMISSION AND GO THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS, I BELIEVE EVERYTHING IS PRETTY WELL SET, PRETTY WELL REGULATED. AND I WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE BILL WITH THE AMENDMENT THAT I DID VOTE FOR. THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON. SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I DO LIKE THE UNDERLYING BILL, LB449, BUT WHEN I READ THE BILL, AND SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS POINTED OUT NUMEROUS TIMES, THERE IS SOME LANGUAGE PROBLEMS. WHEN YOU READ THE LANGUAGE IT SAYS THEY "MAY" ACCEPT GIFTS, THEY "MAY" EXPEND FUNDS, THEY "MAY" DECIDE WHAT TOURIST ATTRACTIONS. LATER ON IT SAYS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS "SHALL" MAINTAIN THOSE SIGNS. I'LL YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. SENATOR CHAMBERS, 4.5 MINUTES. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I KIND OF GET A NOTION OF WHAT THE SALMON SWIMMING UPSTREAM MAY FEEL LIKE, IF THEY HAVE FEELINGS. NOT ONLY ARE YOU SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT, BUT THERE ARE BEARS AND OTHER PREDATORS, SOME WITH TWO LEGS AND CALLED HUMAN BEINGS, WHO ARE WAITING TO MAKE YOU A MEAL OR WHATEVER ELSE THEY WANT TO DO WITH AND TO YOU. I KNOW THIS BILL IS GOING TO PASS. I KNOW THE AMENDMENT IS GOING TO STAY A PART OF IT. AND I KNOW THAT I'M GOING TO VOTE NO AND IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WHATSOEVER AS TO THE OUTCOME. BUT I DON'T WANT TO HEAR, ALTHOUGH I WILL CONTINUE TO HEAR IT, HOW RELIABLE THESE COMMISSIONS ARE, THE THINGS THEY TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION. AND I'M LOOKING AT WHAT THIS OIL AND GAS COMMISSION DID. THEY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THE AREA. THEY HAD PEOPLE OUT IN THE RAIN BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T COME IN WHERE THE MEETING WAS GOING ON. THE GOVERNOR APPOINTED THE COMMISSIONERS. THIS GOVERNOR APPOINTED ONE. HE WAS A REPUBLICAN. THE ATTORNEY

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

GENERAL IS A REPUBLICAN. AND ON THESE KIND OF ISSUES, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY STICKS TOGETHER. SO THE REPUBLICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS EVERYTHING THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR'S REPUBLICAN COMMISSION DID IS ALL RIGHT. SO IT'S UP TO THE LEGISLATURE TO LOOK OUT FOR THE INTERESTS AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS. I WILL SUPPORT THE ABOLITION OF THAT OIL AND GAS COMMISSION--THREE PEOPLE. WHEN I HAD A BILL BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE DEALING WITH EMINENT DOMAIN, SOME GUY NAMED SYDOW OR SYDO (PHONETICALLY) TESTIFIED. HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THESE PIPELINES. HE DIDN'T KNOW THE SIZE OF THEM. HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM. HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THEY ENDED. I DIDN'T KNOW WHY HE EVEN CAME TO TESTIFY. BUT THAT IS THE KIND OF SO-CALLED EXPERTISE THAT THIS COMMISSION HAS. IT HAS DAMAGED THE REPUTATION OF THE STATE. I'M SURE THE WORD HAS GONE OUT THAT THOSE RUBES IN NEBRASKA ARE LOW-HANGING FRUIT, RIPE FOR THE PICKING. THEY TALKED ABOUT HOW WE HAVE PROPRIETARY CHEMICALS AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO TELL THEM WHAT THESE CHEMICALS ARE, AND THEY STILL APPROVED OUR COMING THERE AND DUMPING. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE DUMPING THERE, BUT THEY APPROVED IT. YOU MEAN TO TELL ME, SAYS ONE OF THESE OTHER PEOPLE, THAT THE LEGISLATURE, AFTER SAYING THOSE THINGS, APPROVED IT. OH, NO, NOT THE LEGISLATURE. THE LEGISLATURE WAS THE ONE CONCERNED. BUT THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR'S REPUBLICAN COMMISSION WAS THE ONE THAT SAID, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THE LEGISLATURE. THEY CAME OUT THERE ALMOST HAT IN HAND, ASKED US VERY COURTEOUSLY, VERY RESPECTFULLY TO JUST WAIT AND LET US DO THIS IN A RATIONAL, CAREFUL, PRUDENT MANNER. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO WE JUST SLAMMED THE DOOR ON THEM AND TOLD THEM, WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT? NOTHING. FORTUNATELY, THERE'S A GLUT OF OIL. THE PRODUCTION HAS DIMINISHED IN SOME OF THESE STATES, SO THEY MAY NOT HAVE ALL OF THIS WASTE MATERIAL TO DUMP IN NEBRASKA. SO THE ONE WHO WAS GRANTED THE PERMIT HAS STATED THAT THEY MAY NOT DO ANYTHING WITH IT RIGHT NOW BECAUSE THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEY PUT IN THEIR REQUEST FOR THE PERMIT. DID THAT MEAN ANYTHING TO THE COMMISSION? NO. THEY DON'T CARE OR THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND. AND THAT'S WHAT A COMMISSION IS DOING THAT DAMAGES THIS STATE. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT WATER IS IMPORTANT IN THIS STATE. I DON'T BELIEVE IT ANYMORE. SO I'M

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

GOING TO LOOK WITH A JAUNDICED EYE WHEN WATER BILLS COME...WATER LEGISLATION COME THROUGH THIS LEGISLATURE. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. AND THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN, COLLEAGUES. I DO WANT TO MENTION ONE MORE TIME...AND SENATOR MELLO HAS MENTIONED THIS AND I DID WANT TO THANK HIM BECAUSE IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SIGN, AND YOU CAN READ IN THE FISCAL NOTE AND THE BILL, THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS SHALL ERECT THE MARKER WITH CONSIDERATION GIVEN FOR THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC. THE MARKERS WILL BE MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE STATE VISITORS PROMOTION CASH FUND WILL BE USED TO PROCURE ALL TOURISM MARKERS AND TO REIMBURSE THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS TO ERECT AND REPLACE MARKERS. THE ROADS DEPARTMENT WILL BE REIMBURSED. IF THERE IS A CONCERN BY SENATOR SULLIVAN OR OTHERS ON THE QUALITY OF SIGNS, THAT GOES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE. AND THE OTHER IS THIS COMMISSION, I BELIEVE, SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I INVITE YOU TO GO TO THEIR WEB PAGE AND IT TALKS ABOUT THE COMMISSION MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE WELL-REPRESENTED ACROSS THE STATE AND THERE ARE MEMBERS FROM NORTH PLATTE, FROM LINCOLN, FROM OMAHA, KEARNEY, COLUMBUS, LET'S SEE HERE...AND LA VISTA, AND RED WILLOW. THERE'S TEN MEMBERS ON THE COMMISSION. THERE ARE 12 DIFFERENT STAFF MEMBERS THAT RUN IT. MANY OF YOU MAY BE FAMILIAR WITH THE NEBRASKA PASSPORT PROGRAM THAT'S BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL WHERE A LOT OF COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR BUSINESSES ACROSS THE STATE AND THE PASSPORT DIRECTS THEM. IN THEIR ANNUAL REPORT THAT IS ON-LINE, IT TALKS ABOUT THE STRATEGIC PLAN WHERE THEY WILL WORK TO BRING THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS, THAT TOURISM IS A MAJOR ECONOMIC DRIVER FOR OUR NEBRASKA COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE. AND FROM THEIR ANNUAL REPORT, IT SAYS THE COMMISSION IS A CONDUIT FOR AN INDUSTRY THAT BRINGS BUSINESSES, NONPROFITS, STATEWIDE ASSOCIATIONS, AND NEBRASKANS TOGETHER. I BELIEVE THAT THIS BILL IS PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

IT IS INCORPORATING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP. IT IS SOUND FUNDING AND THOUGHTFUL THAT THESE SHOULD BE PAID FOR BY THOSE WHO WANT THEM ERECTED AND THAT THERE IS OVERSIGHT. THE COMMISSION WILL REVIEW AND WORK WITH THE REQUESTERS AND MAY NOT APPROVE THE SIGN SHOULD IT NOT BE FULLY FUNDED BEFORE IMPLEMENTED. THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS ALSO HAS AUTHORITY IN WHERE SIGNS MAY BE PLACED ACCORDING TO FEDERAL OR STATE REGULATIONS. THERE ARE MANY THINGS HERE. I BELIEVE, AS SENATOR MELLO HAS MENTIONED, AND I DO WANT TO THANK HIM ONCE AGAIN, AS HE REVIEWED THE BILL AND EVERY PIECE OF IT, READ IT, AND HELPED US ALSO ON THE AMENDMENT, THAT DILIGENCE WAS MADE. AGAIN, IT WAS 8 TO 0 IN FAVOR ON THE COMMITTEE. WE WERE HOPING, TIMING WASN'T RIGHT, BUT IT WAS ONE OF THOSE BILLS THAT MAY HAVE GONE TO CONSENT CALENDAR. AND AGAIN, I BELIEVE THAT TALKING ABOUT THIS IS A GOOD THING, LOOKING AT OUR CONCERNS, MAYBE THE SAME CONCERNS THAT OUR CONSTITUENTS ACROSS THE STATE MAY BE THINKING ABOUT. BECAUSE OUR SECOND HOUSE... [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB449]

SENATOR BRASCH: ...HAS BROUGHT THIS BILL TO US. AND WE, AS THEIR LEGISLATORS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, ARE LOOKING AT WHAT THE BENEFITS MAY BE. THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. AND ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO AND COLLEAGUES. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. SENATOR KRIST WAIVES OFF. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB449]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I'D YIELD MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, 5 MINUTES. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THE MENTOR YIELDS TIME TO THE MENTEE, AND FOR THAT I THANK YOU. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I WANT TO GO BACK TO MY NO VOTE ON THIS BILL. IT IS JUST MY WAY OF MAKING A STATEMENT OF HOW IMPORTANT I THINK IT IS FOR US TO CAREFULLY CRAFT LEGISLATION WITHOUT A LOT OF IFS, MAYBE, PERHAPSES, THE GLOSSING OVER, SKATING AROUND, AND SAYING EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT,

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

JUST DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. AND I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO THE OIL AND GAS COMMISSION AGAIN. SOME PEOPLE HAVE SAID ON THIS FLOOR, SPEAKING OF ANOTHER REGULATORY COMMISSION, THAT THEY LISTEN TO WHAT'S SAID IN THE LEGISLATURE. MAYBE THEY DO, BUT THEY DON'T PAY ATTENTION. AND THIS LEGISLATURE, THIS SPECIFIC GROUP OF PEOPLE NOW A PART OF THIS LEGISLATURE, SHOULD MAKE UP ITS MIND THAT IT IS GOING TO ASSERT...FIRST ASSUME THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY THAT WE HAVE, THEN ASSERT IT, WHICH I DON'T KNOW IF THAT WILL EVER BE DONE. BUT I'M NOT BOUND BY ANYTHING ANYBODY ELSE DOES OR DOES NOT DO. I DON'T THINK THAT AMENDMENT WAS WISE. FROM LISTENING TO THE DISCUSSION OF IT, IT WAS NOT WELL-THOUGHT-OUT. I THINK SENATOR BRASCH--I'M GIVING MY OPINION-- BROUGHT IT AS A FAVOR TO SOMEBODY IN THE ORIGINAL BILL. THE COMMITTEE, PERHAPS AS A FAVOR, SENT IT OUT HERE. SENATOR MELLO, BEING THE GOOD-HEARTED PERSON THAT HE IS, MAYBE THE WEAKNESS OF HIS NATURE IS THAT SHARED WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN, WHO WOULD LOOK AT ANYBODY WHO WAS REPENTANT AND GIVE THAT PERSON ANOTHER CHANCE, IN OTHER WORDS, VERY SENSITIVE, SYMPATHETIC, AND WILLING TO HELP. BUT THAT'S NOT ALWAYS THE BEST MOVE TO BE MADE WHEN WE'RE LEGISLATING. THERE WAS NOT THE FORTHRIGHT AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS MADE ABOUT THAT AMENDMENT WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN MADE AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE HAD THERE BEEN AN UNDERSTANDING OF IT. I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE THE END OF THE WORLD, IT WON'T BE THE END OF THE COUNTRY, IT WON'T EVEN BE THE END OF NEBRASKA, BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO TALK ABOUT NEBRASKA DON'T LOOK FOR MUCH OUT OF NEBRASKA ANYWAY. AND IT'S A PATHETIC SITUATION WHEN YOU COME ACROSS PEOPLE WHO WILL SAY WITH REFERENCE TO NEBRASKA, WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT, THAT'S NEBRASKA. AND IF YOU ALL THINK I'M MAKING IT UP, YOU DON'T READ, YOU DON'T LISTEN, YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION. THEY EVEN JOKE ABOUT THIS STATE WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT FLYOVERS AND THE KIND OF THINGS THAT RISE UP AND EVEN HIT THE AIRPLANE AS IT FLIES OVER. SO THIS IS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE THINGS WHERE IT REALLY MAKES NO GREAT AMOUNT OF DIFFERENCE TO ANYBODY. BUT IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO ME, AS IN THAT LITTLE STORY THAT THEY GIVE ABOUT THE STARFISH. AND THE CHILD ON THE BEACH THREW THE STARFISH BACK IN AND THE ADULT SAID, THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM, IT'S NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE, AND THE CHILD SAID, WELL, IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO THE ONE THAT I THREW BACK. IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO ME WHAT IT IS THAT I DO. AND I'M GOING TO CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE THINGS THAT I THINK NEED... [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...TO BE DISCUSSED BECAUSE THEY INVOLVE MORE THAN JUST A SMALL COMMUNITY HERE OR A SMALL COMMUNITY THERE OR A LARGE COMMUNITY SUCH AS OMAHA. SO MY NO VOTE WILL BE UP THERE ON THIS BILL. AND ANYBODY AT ANY POINT CAN MAKE ANYTHING OF IT THAT THEY CHOOSE. BUT WHAT I DO, I ATTACH MY NAME TO IT. I DON'T ACT ANONYMOUSLY. AND WHATEVER CONSEQUENCES ARE TO BE BORNE BY WHAT I DO OR SAY, I'M PREPARED FOR THAT. THIS IS OVERALL WHAT I CHARACTERIZE AS A PEEWEE BILL. BUT THERE'S A PRINCIPLE INVOLVED THAT I THINK DOES NOT FIT THAT DESCRIPTION AT ALL. AND THE DESCRIPTION DOES NOT FIT IT. SO I AM GOING TO VOTE NO. AND BECAUSE... [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB449]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...WE ARE...I WANT A MACHINE VOTE WHEN WE VOTE. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR KRIST. [LB449]

SENATOR KRIST: QUESTION. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THE QUESTION HAS BEEN CALLED. DO I SEE FIVE HANDS? I DO. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL DEBATE CEASE? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF CEASING DEBATE VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB449]

CLERK: 25 AYES, 0 NAYS TO CEASE DEBATE. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: DEBATE IS CEASED. SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED FOR MOTION. [LB449]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB449 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATORS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST FOR MACHINE VOTE. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED WHO CARE TO? RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB449]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CLERK: 31 AYES, 5 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB449.
[LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB449 ADVANCES. MR. CLERK, ITEMS FOR THE RECORD.
[LB449]

CLERK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOUR COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
CHAIR BY SENATOR SULLIVAN, REPORTS LB96, LB392, LB421, LB481, LB529,
LB582 AS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED. REFERENCE REPORT REFERRING
GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR CONFIRMATION
HEARING. NOTICE OF HEARING FROM THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE.
ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LB294 AND LB67 AND LB642, LB317 TO
SELECT FILE. NEW RESOLUTIONS: LR207, LR208; THOSE WILL BOTH BE LAID
OVER, OFFERED BOTH BY SENATOR KOLTERMAN. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE, MR.
PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1286-1293.) [LB96 LB392 LB421 LB481
LB529 LB582 LB294 LB67 LB642 LB317 LR207 LR208]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. WE'LL CONTINUE WITH SELECT
FILE, LB132. MR. CLERK. [LB132]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB132. THERE ARE E&R AMENDMENTS, SENATOR, FIRST
OF ALL. (ER75, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1152.) [LB132]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB132]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R
AMENDMENTS TO LB132. [LB132]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE E&R
AMENDMENTS. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE
E&R AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. MR. CLERK. [LB132]

CLERK: SENATOR EBKE WOULD MOVE TO AMEND WITH AM1327. (LEGISLATIVE
JOURNAL PAGE 1267.) [LB132]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR EBKE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON AM1327.
[LB132]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR EBKE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'D LIKE TO JUST GIVE EVERYONE A REFRESHER ON WHAT LB132 IS. THIS PARTICULAR BILL LINKS JOINT PUBLIC AGENCY BOND ISSUANCE PROCEDURES TO TAXING POWERS. IT REQUIRES JOINT PUBLIC AGENCIES TO FOLLOW THE SAME BOND ISSUANCE PROCEDURES THAT A PARTICIPATING PUBLIC AGENCY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW TO BOND. THE BILL HAD AN 8-0 VOTE IN THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE AND IS THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITY BILL. WE HAD PLANNED, AS WE TALKED ON GENERAL FILE, TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH A FEW CONCERNS THAT SOME OF THE INTERESTED PARTIES HAD WITH RESPECT TO THIS BILL AND WE HAVE DONE THAT WITH AM1327. WHAT AM1327 DOES IS THIS. IT ALLOWS REFINANCING OF EXISTING BONDS AS LONG AS THERE IS NOT AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF THE PRINCIPAL. THE ESSENCE OF THIS IS THAT WE WANT TO GIVE PUBLIC ENTITIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE TAXPAYERS MONEY THROUGH REFINANCING, IF THAT SHOULD COME AVAILABLE. I WANT TO THANK SENATOR MORFELD FOR INITIATING THE FIRST ROUND OF LANGUAGE OF WHAT ULTIMATELY BECAME AM1327. AND TO CLOSE, I JUST WANT TO REMIND EVERYBODY OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY AND THIS TRANSPARENCY ISSUE INVOLVED IN LB132 AND THE UNDERLYING AMENDMENT. PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE ON TAXATION WHICH THEY WILL BE PAYING AND THE AUTHORITY UPON WHICH THOSE TAXES ARE ADMINISTERED. LB132, AS AMENDED BY AM1327, WILL CLEAR UP A LOT OF THINGS. IT WILL FIX SOME OF THE LONGSTANDING UNFAIR LOOPHOLES WITH JOINT PUBLIC AGENCIES AND STILL ALLOW JPAS TO OPERATE IF THE PUBLIC DEEMS THEM NECESSARY. WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES. AND I WOULD URGE A GREEN VOTE ON BOTH AM1327 AND LB132. [LB132]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR EBKE. SENATOR MORFELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB132]

SENATOR MORFELD: THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I'D LIKE TO THANK SENATOR EBKE FOR WORKING WITH ME ON THE AMENDMENTS TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO REFINANCE THESE BONDS AND ULTIMATELY SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS WHILE ENSURING THAT WE HAVE ULTIMATELY AS MUCH ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY AND LEAVE THE POWER OF ISSUING THESE BONDS TO THE VOTERS. I URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF THE AMENDMENT AND LB132. THANK YOU. [LB132]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MORFELD. SEEING NO OTHER SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR EBKE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR AMENDMENT. SENATOR EBKE WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE

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Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

ADOPTION OF AM1327. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED WHO CARE TO? RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB132]

CLERK: 30 AYES, 0 NAYS, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT. [LB132]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: AM1327 IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK. [LB132]

CLERK: NOTHING FURTHER, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB132]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB132]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB132 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB132]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATORS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION TO ADVANCE THE BILL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. LB132 ADVANCES. CONTINUING WITH SELECT FILE, SENATOR PRIORITY BILLS, LB419. MR. CLERK. [LB132 LB419]

CLERK: I HAVE E&R AMENDMENTS FIRST OF ALL, SENATOR. (ER72, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1096.) [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB419]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB419. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATORS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE E&R AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. MR. CLERK. [LB419]

CLERK: SENATOR SCHNOOR WOULD MOVE TO AMEND, AM1401. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1294.) [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON AM1401. [LB419]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR SCHNOOR. THANK YOU, SIR. THE AMENDMENT IS SIMPLE. WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT THIS, OH, ON GENERAL FILE, I STOOD UP AND GAVE MY CONCERNS. AND THIS AMENDMENT SIMPLY CHANGES WHO CAN...WHO IS...OH, HOW DO I WANT TO...THINK OF HOW TO PHRASE THIS--PEOPLE THAT HAVE PASSES TO GET INTO THE ZOO, THAT'S THE ONLY AREA WHERE TAXES ARE TAKEN OUT. THE OTHER AREAS, PEOPLE THAT PAY GENERAL ADMISSION, THOSE THAT COME IN FROM OUT OF STATE TO GO TO THE ZOO, THEY STILL PAY TAXES ON THAT. AND THEY'RE STILL ASSESSED FOR THAT. THAT'S BASICALLY WHAT THIS DOES. IT ALLOWS THE PEOPLE THAT ARE WITHIN THE AREA TO GET THAT TAX-EXEMPT STATUS. SO THAT'S THE EXTENT OF THE AMENDMENT. THANK YOU. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I'M GOING TO RESPECTFULLY STAND IN OPPOSITION TO SENATOR SCHNOOR'S AMENDMENT, AM1401. WHILE I WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED SENATOR SCHNOOR COMING TO ME, LETTING ME KNOW HE WAS GOING TO ESSENTIALLY TRY TO GUT THE UNDERLYING COMPONENTS OF THE BILL, MY INTERPRETATION OF HIS AMENDMENT ACTUALLY IS IT LIMITS THE SALES TAX EXEMPTION TO MEMBERSHIPS ONLY, WHICH IS SOMETHING THAT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED IN REGARDS TO CONVERSATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS IN REGARDS TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL, AS WELL AS CONVERSATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS. AND WHAT WE ULTIMATELY DETERMINED WAS TO INCORPORATE A SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR PURCHASES BY THESE NONPROFIT ENTITIES, MEMBERSHIPS, AND ADMISSIONS TO THESE ENTITIES. SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO RESPECTFULLY STAND IN OPPOSITION TO AM1401 AS I WOULD...MADE SIMILAR REMARKS IN REGARDS TO GENERAL FILE. THESE ARE UNIQUE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, COLLEAGUES, THAT HAVE A DRAMATIC AND TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON THE STATE'S ECONOMY, PRIMARILY BEING THE LARGEST TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE STATE. THE THOUGHT BEHIND LB419 IS TO CREATE A TAX POLICY THAT RECOGNIZES THOSE VERY UNIQUE AND DYNAMIC PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT DO HAPPEN ACROSS THE STATE FROM OMAHA, LINCOLN, CASS COUNTY, AND IN SCOTTSBLUFF BECAUSE WE KNOW THE UNDERSTANDING OF INVESTING IN OUR TOURISM INDUSTRY, THE IMPACTS, AND THE REAL BENEFITS THAT COME BACK FROM THOSE INVESTMENTS. SO WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO VOTE NO ON AM1401. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB419]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SEEING NO OTHER SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE ON AM1401. [LB419]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: AS I TALKED ABOUT ON GENERAL FILE, YOU KNOW, WE TEND...IT'S, I GUESS, THE APPEARANCE IS THAT WE GIVE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS TO BIG BUSINESSES. WE DON'T GIVE THEM TO YOUR BLUE-COLLAR WORKER THAT'S PAYING A MAJORITY OF THE TAXES. WE HAVE...THERE'S NO DOUBT WE HAVE ONE OF THE BEST ZOOS WITH HENRY DOORLY ZOO. I HONESTLY CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE OTHER ONES. I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THEM. THE HENRY DOORLY ZOO IS WITHOUT A DOUBT ONE OF THE BEST ZOOS IN THE NATION, IF NOT THE WORLD. THERE'S...NOBODY CAN DENY THAT. BUT LET'S LOOK AT THE FACT: IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THEY'VE BEEN GIVEN IN EXCESS OF \$200 MILLION WORTH OF DONATIONS. SO HOW THIS IS GOING TO HELP THEM GET MORE PEOPLE IN THE DOOR I'M NOT QUITE SURE. SO YOU KNOW, IT GOES BACK TO WHO'S GETTING ALL THE BIG BREAKS. IT'S THE BIG BUSINESSES. SO LET'S HELP THIS MONEY GO TO SOME OF THE PEOPLE THAT ARE GOING THERE BY GIVING THE PEOPLE THAT SPEND THE MONEY TO GET THE BREAK BECAUSE THE TAX BREAK THEY'RE GETTING THEY HAVE...AND SENATOR MELLO I BELIEVE HAS SAID THAT THEY'RE NOT GIVING THIS BACK TO THE PEOPLE. THEY'RE GOING TO REINVEST THIS IN THEIR BUSINESS. SO THE PEOPLE THAT SPEND THE MONEY THERE, THEY AREN'T GOING TO SEE ANY SAVINGS. SO THAT'S WHY I'M SUBMITTING THIS AMENDMENT, TO HELP SOME OF THIS SAVINGS GO BACK TO THE PEOPLE THAT SUPPORT THIS BUSINESS. SO THAT'S ALL I HAVE. THANK YOU, SIR. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. YOU'VE HEARD THE DEBATE AND CLOSING ON AM1401. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB419]

CLERK: 5 AYES, 18 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE AMENDMENT. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THE AMENDMENT IS NOT ADOPTED. MR. CLERK. [LB419]

CLERK: SENATOR EBKE WOULD MOVE TO AMEND, AM1385. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1294.) [LB419]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR EBKE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON AM1385.
[LB419]

SENATOR EBKE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AM1385 WOULD CHANGE THE SCOPE OF THE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS. BUT I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK MORE BROADLY ABOUT TAX RELIEF. I HAD HOPED AND BELIEVED THAT WE WERE GOING TO SEE SOME SERIOUS TAX RELIEF DEBATED ON THE FLOOR THIS YEAR. AND AS WITH MANY OF MY FRESHMEN COLLEAGUES, I HEARD ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL THE FRUSTRATION THAT MANY TAXPAYERS IN OUR STATE HAVE WITH THE SENSE THAT TAXES CONTINUE TO GROW AS OUR SPENDING CONTINUES TO EXPAND INTO NEW AREAS. WITH THAT IN MIND, I THINK IT REALLY IS INCUMBENT ON US TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT HOW WE HAND OUT EXEMPTIONS FROM TAXES, BECAUSE EXEMPTIONS TO TAXES, OR FROM TAXES FOR SOME, IN AN ERA WHEN SPENDING CONTINUES TO GROW MEANS THAT TAXES FOR SOMEONE ELSE WILL INCREASE, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT TERM, UNTIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT KICKS IN. COLLEAGUES, I ALSO BELIEVE IT'S TIME FOR US TO START THINKING ABOUT TAXES AND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PAYING THEM. WHILE I DON'T LIKE MOST EXEMPTIONS, I WON'T FIGHT THIS BILL. BUT I WILL LOOK VERY CAREFULLY AT ANY BILL FROM HERE ON WHICH GIVES SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS TO ANY SUBGROUP AND ANY BILL WHICH WILL RAISE TAXES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE CAN DISCUSS BROADER-BASED TAX RELIEF ON THE FLOOR. AND, MR. PRESIDENT, I'LL PULL AM1385 AT THIS TIME. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR EBKE. AM1385 IS WITHDRAWN. MR. CLERK. [LB419]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR FRIESEN WOULD MOVE TO AMEND THE BILL WITH AM1406. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1294.) [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON AM1406.
[LB419]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WHEN WE DISCUSSED THIS THE LAST TIME IT WAS BEFORE US, I THOUGHT IT WAS BAD TAX POLICY. I STILL THINK IT IS. WE HAVE A SUCCESSFUL PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP. IT'S WORKING WELL. THEY RECEIVE TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF DONATIONS WHICH ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. AND THEY ARE A WORLD-CLASS ZOO. AND IF OUR GOAL ALWAYS IS TO REWARD THOSE THINGS THAT ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL WITH TAX

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

BREAKS OR I GUESS IN THIS RESPECT WE'RE ACTUALLY...YOU CAN EITHER CALL IT A TAX BREAK OR A DONATION, WHICHEVER YOU CHOOSE. THE WAY WE GO ABOUT DOING THIS WHEN WE JUST EXEMPT SOMEONE FROM A SALES TAX AND YOU GO THROUGH OUR SALES TAX LIST AND IT IS A LONG LIST OF THINGS THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM SALES TAX. AND THAT'S WHY WHEN WE STARTED THIS PROCESS I DID NOT HAVE AN OBJECTION TO THE ZOO BEING EXEMPT FROM PURCHASING THEIR SALES, ANYTHING THAT THEY PURCHASED FOR SUPPLIES OR BUILDING, I WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SUPPORT AN EXEMPTION IN THAT SALES TAX. BUT WHEN THE END RESULT IS ATTRACT MORE VISITORS TO THE STATE, THOSE REVENUES ARE THE REVENUES WE WOULD LIKE TO CATCH. THOSE ARE THE ONES THAT BROADEN OUR TAX BASE AND ALLOW US TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF TAX RELIEF DOWN THE ROAD. BUT AS WE WHITTLE AWAY AT MORE AND MORE OF THESE DEDUCTIONS TO OUR SALES TAX IT BROADENS...IT NARROWS THE SCOPE OF WHERE WE COLLECT OUR TAXES INSTEAD OF BROADENS THEM. THIS BRINGS IN A WHOLE NEW GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO TRAVEL TO NEBRASKA TO SEE IT. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO NOTICE A PRICE DIFFERENCE BECAUSE IT'S BUILT INTO THE PRICE. THEY'RE GOING TO COLLECT THE SAME AMOUNT. NO ONE IS EVEN GOING TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE UNLESS THEY EXPAND THE ZOO WITH THIS MONEY. AND SO WHAT MY BILL (SIC) DOES IS GIVE IT A SUNSET CLAUSE. I'M WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE. IF HENRY DOORLY ZOO WANTS TO DO A...OR SOME OF THE OTHER ZOOS WANT TO DO A BIG PROJECT THEY CAN COUNT ON THIS REVENUE FOR FIVE YEARS, AND WE CAN CALL IT AN APPROPRIATION, HOWEVER YOU WANT. AND IF WE LOOK AT IT AND IN FIVE YEARS AND IT'S DOING FANTASTIC THINGS FOR THE STATE AND WE CAN MEASURE ITS GROWTH AND SEE WHAT IT'S DONE, WE CAN CONTINUE IT. BUT TO ME, A SALES TAX...WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO PROVIDE SOME PROPERTY TAX RELIEF OR INCOME TAX RELIEF, AND WE ALWAYS TALK ABOUT BROADENING THE BASE. NOW WE'RE NARROWING IT. HERE WE HAVE A VERY SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION. THEY ARE NOT OPERATING IN THE RED. WE HAVE NUMEROUS TOURISM PLACES IN THE STATE WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO MAKE IT. AND THERE WE DO NOTHING. SO TO ME, THIS BILL, ALTHOUGH IT ALLOWS IT TO GO FORWARD FOR FIVE YEARS, IT PROVIDES THEM SOME FUNDING. THEY CAN CONSIDER SOME PROJECTS. THEY CAN KNOW WHERE THE FUNDS COME FROM. BUT AT THE END OF THAT TIME WE REVISIT IT, LOOK AT WHAT IT'S DONE. LIKE ANY OTHER TAX POLICY, WE TRY TO MEASURE IT, SEE IF IT'S SUCCESSFUL. IF IT'S ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE WANT, WE CAN CONTINUE IT. BUT IT DOESN'T JUST GO FORWARD ON AUTOMATIC PILOT. WE'RE GIVING A TAX EXEMPTION HERE WITH NO SUPERVISION. THERE'S NO METRICS THAT IT HAS TO BE MEASURED BY WHETHER IT'S SUCCESSFUL OR NOT. WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAND IT OUT, AND IT WILL JUST DISAPPEAR FROM OUR

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

REVENUE STREAM FOREVER, UNTIL SOMEBODY SEES IT ON THE LONG LIST OF EXEMPTIONS AND GOES AFTER IT SOME DAY. AND THEN IT WILL BE LIKE TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY: WE'LL BE BAD PEOPLE FOR DOING IT. SO MY AMENDMENT, VERY SIMPLE, IT PUTS A SUNSET CLAUSE, ALLOWS IT ALL TO MOVE FORWARD. AND IN THE END, THE SUNSET CLAUSE JUST AFFECTS ADMISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIP, NOTHING ELSE. EVERYTHING ELSE, THE INPUT COSTS, ALL THAT, I WOULD STILL MAINTAIN SHOULD BE TAX EXEMPT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON LB419 AND THE RELATED AMENDMENT. THERE ARE NOW EIGHT SENATORS IN THE SPEAKING QUEUE. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE FIRST. YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I'M GOING TO RESPECTFULLY STAND UP IN OPPOSITION TO AM1406. SENATOR FRIESEN DID APPROACH ME BEFORE THE DEBATE THIS AFTERNOON TO LET ME KNOW HE WAS BRINGING AM1406 AND TO WALK THROUGH HIS GENERAL CONCERN HE STILL HAD ABOUT THE UNDERLYING POLICY. COLLEAGUES, I'LL REMIND EVERYONE WHAT WE DISCUSSED ON GENERAL FILE, WHICH IS IF YOU DON'T LIKE AND YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS GOOD TAX POLICY, THAT'S A DECISION YOU CAN JUST VOTE AGAINST THE BILL. BUT I HAVE YET TO SEE US IN A LEGISLATURE MAKE A DECISION REGARDING A SALES TAX EXEMPTION BY PUTTING A SUNSET ON IT AND SAYING, WELL, IT'S KIND OF GOOD TAX POLICY, BUT WE REALLY DON'T BELIEVE IT IS SO WE'RE GOING TO PUT A SUNSET ON IT. WE DIDN'T DO THAT LAST YEAR WITH AG MACHINERY REPAIR PARTS. WE DIDN'T DO IT A FEW YEARS AGO WITH BIOCHIPS OR MINERAL OIL AS A SUPPRESSANT FOR DUST. WE DIDN'T DO THAT WITH DATA CENTERS. WE DIDN'T DO IT ARGUABLY LAST YEAR WITH DIRECT MAIL POSTAGE OR GOLD OR SILVER BULLION BECAUSE WE THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD TAX POLICY IN REGARDS TO EXEMPTING BUSINESS INPUTS, AS WELL AS WE'VE DONE BEFORE WITH MEMBERSHIPS AND ADMISSIONS, WE'VE DONE IT WITH NONPROFIT SPORTING EVENTS BECAUSE WE THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD TAX POLICY IN THE SENSE OF NOT WANTING TO TAX SOMEONE AS THEY WERE PAYING AN ADMISSIONS FEE TO SOME KIND OF EVENT THAT WAS YOUTH OR ATHLETIC FOCUSED. I DON'T THINK THAT POLICY OR THAT ARGUMENT HAS CHANGED, COLLEAGUES, BETWEEN GENERAL FILE AND WHERE WE STAND TODAY ON SELECT FILE. FOR WHATEVER REASON IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE BILL BECAUSE YOU DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE INVESTING MORE FUNDING IN TOURISM, ARGUABLY OUR STATE'S LARGEST TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, AS WELL AS GIVING A RECOGNITION TO THOSE PRIVATE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

PHILANTHROPIC DONORS WHO HAVE PONIED UP MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, TO HELP BRING IN MORE OUT OF STATE FUNDING FOR US AND OUT OF STATE TAX DOLLARS, THAT'S A DECISION THAT YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL GET TO MAKE. I'VE TRIED TO MAKE THE ARGUMENT THAT THIS IS GOOD TAX POLICY AND IT'S GOOD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY BECAUSE WE AS A STATE NOW WILL BE INVESTING IN THOSE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT WE HAVE BEEN REAPING BENEFITS FROM FOR DECADES, THAT THE PRIVATE DOLLARS AND PHILANTHROPIC DOLLARS THAT ARE PUT INTO THE ZOOS IN OMAHA, LINCOLN, SCOTTSBLUFF, AND IN CASS COUNTY, WE'RE ACKNOWLEDGING THOSE PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTIONS BY SAYING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE STATE'S HISTORY WE'RE GOING TO ACTUALLY NOW PUT FUNDING INTO THESE MAIN TOURIST ATTRACTIONS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT WILL GROW OUR ECONOMY. COLLEAGUES, THAT'S A TAX DECISION THAT'S TIED IN WITH AN ECONOMIC POLICY DECISION. I THINK US INVESTING IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY TO GROW OUR ECONOMY WILL YIELD STRONGER BENEFITS NOT JUST FOR OMAHA, LINCOLN, SCOTTSBLUFF, AND CASS COUNTY. THOSE FUNDS COME TO THE STATE GENERAL FUND THAT GETS SPENT ACROSS THE STATE ON EDUCATION IN HENDERSON, ON EDUCATION IN SCRIBNER, ON JOB TRAINING IN NORTH PLATTE, THINGS THAT WE KNOW ALSO GROW THE ECONOMY. SO I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING THE DEBATE THIS AFTERNOON ON AM1406. IT'S NOT THAT...SENATOR FRIESEN HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT A GENTLEMAN AND A SCHOLAR IN REGARDS TO TALKING ABOUT THIS WITH ME. I APPRECIATE THAT. I THINK, COLLEAGUES, WE JUST DON'T MAKE TAX POLICY IN A HAPHAZARD WAY. AND I THINK TRYING TO SAY THAT WE KIND OF ARE OKAY WITH THIS CONCEPT BUT REALLY WE WANT TO PUT A TIME LIMIT ON IT DOESN'T GIVE THE IMPRESSION OR DOESN'T GIVE THE CERTAINTY TO THE ORGANIZATION AND DOESN'T GIVE THAT ALSO TO OUR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERS WHO ARE ALSO TRYING TO MAKE DECISIONS IN REGARDS TO GROWING OUR TOURISM ECONOMY WITH THE ADOPTION OF LB419. WITH THAT, I URGE THE BODY TO OPPOSE AM1406. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I APPRECIATE SENATOR FRIESEN'S AMENDMENT. I LIKE SUNSETS TO SEE IF CLAIMS MADE BY POLITICIANS, INCLUDING ME, I AM ONE, THAT WHY WE DO SOMETHING IS GOING TO GIVE AN ECONOMIC BENEFIT OR A RETURN TO THE STATE, BUT THAT'S WHY I HAVE A REAL PROBLEM WITH THIS TAX EXEMPTION FOR THE ZOOS, BECAUSE THERE'S NEVER BEEN AN ARGUMENT MADE THAT WE WILL HAVE MORE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

TOURISTS, MORE INVESTMENT, MORE PEOPLE COME TO OUR STATE, BECAUSE WE'VE ALREADY BEEN TOLD IT'S ONE OF THE GREATEST ZOOS IN THE WORLD. AND WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT THE DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE DONORS HAS BEEN THERE, CONTINUE TO BE THERE. I DON'T SEE HOW WE...I THOUGHT THE IDEA OF DONATING, GIVING MONEY WAS BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO DO IT, THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT...YOU DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE THANKED BY THE TAXPAYERS WITH A TAX BREAK FOR A ZOO. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT ARGUMENT AT ALL. WHEN THIS BODY IN THE PAST GAVE TAX EXEMPTION SALES TAX TO AGRICULTURAL PARTS, IT WAS FOR ECONOMIC REASONS. AGRICULTURE OPERATORS WERE GOING TO DIFFERENT STATES, OVER THE INTERNET AND BUYING THEIR PARTS INSTEAD OF BUYING THEM LOCALLY. THERE WAS A REASON. THE TOURISTS ARE NOT GOING TO GO TO ANOTHER ZOO BECAUSE THE HENRY DOORLY ZOO IS WELL-KNOWN ACROSS THE NATION AS A DESTINATION SPOT. THIS IS JUST A FEEL-GOOD TAX EXEMPTION THAT MAKES NO ECONOMIC SENSE, NO POLICY SENSE. WE'VE BEEN COLLECTING THOSE TAXES AND THE ZOO HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND VISITORS HAVE CAME. I'VE GOT A PACKET HERE. I WAS GOING TO GO THROUGH SOME OF THE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS. AND WHEN I LOOK AT NONPROFITS, IT'S USUALLY, YOU KNOW, A NONPROFIT THAT'S DOING GOOD FOR HOSPITALS. THERE'S NOT REALLY ANY IN HERE TOURISM UNLESS IT'S A STATE-OWNED TOURIST ATTRACTION BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, IT'S KIND OF FOOLISH TO TAX YOUR TAX DOLLARS WHEN IT'S GOVERNMENT OWNED. I SEE WYUKA CEMETERY FOR SOME REASON HAD A GOOD LOBBYIST AND THEY GOT TAX...PURCHASES BY WYUKA CEMETERY IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA. THAT WOULD BE A HISTORY TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT. BUT THIS MAKES NO SENSE, ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE WITH FORECASTING BOARD COMING IN WITH LOWER EXPECTATIONS. WHEN I DID BUDGETS IN BUSINESS, INCOME IS ALSO CONSIDERED IN YOUR FINAL BOTTOM LINE. AND I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN GIVE AWAY \$2.7 MILLION FOR NO ECONOMIC REASON, NO ARGUMENT THAT WE'RE GOING TO COLLECT MORE TAXES OR HAVE MORE VISITORS BECAUSE WE DID IT, WHEN THE FORECASTING BOARD SAYS WE'RE GOING TO BE SHORT ON FUNDS. THIS MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE. AND SENATOR FRIESEN'S AMENDMENT AT LEAST SAYS WAIT A MINUTE, LET'S FIND OUT IF IT DID HAVE AN EFFECT ON INCREASING TAXES BECAUSE WE GAVE IT, AN EXEMPTION, FOR THE ZOOS. THIS IS JUST A FEEL GOOD... YOU GOT A LOT OF MONEY AND YOU WANT SOMETHING, A DONATION THAT YOU GAVE APPRECIATED, AND GIVE OUR ZOO A TAX BREAK. THAT'S ALL THIS IS ABOUT. I DON'T SEE HOW THIS IS GOOD POLICY, GOOD TAX POLICY, GOOD BUDGETING POLICY. IT MAKES NO SENSE, ESPECIALLY WHEN EVERYBODY IS SCREAMING OUT THERE ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES. ANY SPARE DOLLAR WE HAVE IN THIS STATE'S BUDGET NEEDS TO BE CONCENTRATED ON DOING ITS DUTY... [LB419]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB419]

SENATOR GROENE: ...IN EDUCATION FUNDING SO THAT PROPERTY TAXES CAN BE ADDRESSED IN THIS STATE. BUT THOSE ARE A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE. IF YOU LIVE HERE, YOU'RE A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE, I GUESS. AND WE JUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU AND YOUR PROPERTY TAXES. BUT WE'RE HEADED FOR SOME ROUGH TIMES ECONOMICALLY I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE. I'M IN AGRICULTURE. I SEE IT COMING. I THINK THE FORECASTING BOARD IS GOING TO SAY THAT ALSO. THIS IS NOT A TIME TO GIVE TAX BREAKS TO TOURISTS. WE'RE GIVING IT TO THE TOURISTS. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD THE CONSUMER PAYS THE TAXES, NOT THE BUSINESS, THE CONSUMER PAYS THE TAXES. SO WHAT WE'RE...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I EVER HEARD THAT WE'RE GOING TO...THEY'RE STILL COLLECTING THE TAX, BUT THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP IT? THAT ONE I DON'T UNDERSTAND. ANYWAY, I SUPPORT SENATOR FRIESEN'S AMENDMENT. I JUST DON'T SEE HOW THIS HELPS THE STATE OF NEBRASKA FINANCIALLY BY GIVING A FEEL-GOOD, GOOD-OLD BOY... [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB419]

SENATOR GROENE: ...TAX BREAK. THANK YOU. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. MR. CLERK. I'M SORRY. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, TO BE FOLLOWED BY SENATOR KINTNER, KRIST, BRASCH, HUGHES, KOLOWSKI, FRIESEN, HADLEY, AND MORFELD. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LB419 AND AGAINST AM1406. I'VE ENJOYED THE CONVERSATION THAT WE'VE HEARD THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT GENERAL TAX POLICY. THEIR PHILOSOPHY ON WHETHER WE'RE GIVING OUT SALES TAXES WILLY-NILLY OR NOT. I'D LIKE TO POINT OUT TO MANY OF MY FRIENDS IN THE AG SECTOR THAT THERE ARE A FAIR NUMBER OF EXEMPTIONS IN THE AG DEPARTMENT THAT GET A SALES TAX: AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS, ANIMAL GROOMING, ANIMAL LIFE, ANIMAL SPECIALTY SERVICES, COMMERCIAL ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION, FEED OR WATER, MINERAL OIL AS A DUST SUPPRESSANT, OXYGEN, SEEDS SOLD TO COMMERCIAL PRODUCERS, VETERINARY MEDICINE FOR ANIMALS RAISED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR FOR PELTS USED BY HUMANS. THAT'S JUST A SMALL LIST OF THE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS THAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE IN THE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

AGRICULTURAL AREA. SENATOR RICH PAHLS THREE OR FOUR YEARS AGO DID A STUDY ON SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS AND HE POINTED OUT THAT WE ONLY TAX ONE-THIRD, ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THE ITEMS THAT WE COULD TAX IN NEBRASKA; THAT'S GOODS AND ITEMS. AND AS A RESULT, OUR SALES TAX REVENUES ARE PRETTY LIMITED. AND WE CERTAINLY COULD USE SOME REFORM IN THAT AREA. IN FACT, IF WE GOT SOME SALES TAX REFORM, PROPERTY TAX WOULD BE A BREEZE, AN ABSOLUTE BREEZE. AND I THINK THAT IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING WE SHOULD LOOK AT IN THE YEARS TO COME. WE ALL WOULD LIKE TO SEE PROPERTY TAX REFORM. PUTTING A SUNSET ON LB419 IS PROBABLY NOT THE BEST WAY TO GO. WE NEED A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF OUR SALES TAX POLICIES AND WHICH ITEMS ARE EXEMPT. AND I WOULD MOVE THAT WE DO THAT OVER THE SUMMER AND IN FUTURE YEARS SO WE CAN TRULY GIVE PEOPLE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR KINTNER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN HERE THREE YEARS NOW. AND I KNOW MY FIRST YEAR WE DIDN'T GET ANY REAL TAX RELIEF DONE. MY SECOND YEAR, SPEAKER HADLEY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE WAS ABLE TO GET TOGETHER A NUMBER OF BILLS THAT PROVIDED SOME TAX RELIEF, ESPECIALLY INDEXING THE TAX BRACKETS WHICH I THOUGHT WAS ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT. AND WE DID SOME SMALL THINGS FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION. WE EXEMPTED A TEENY, TINY LITTLE BIT OF SOCIAL SECURITY, BUT THERE WAS NO BROAD-BASED...I THANK SENATOR HADLEY AND THE REVENUE COMMITTEE AND MY COLLEAGUES LAST YEAR FOR DOING THAT. I MEAN, THAT WAS NO EASY TASK. AND MY HAT IS OFF TO SENATOR HADLEY, SPEAKER HADLEY FOR DOING THAT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. BUT THERE WAS NO BROAD-BASED TAX RELIEF. WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WITH PROPERTY TAXES. IT'S NOT OUR TAX. IT'S VERY TOUGH TO DEAL WITH. I UNDERSTAND THAT THAT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH TO UNWIND THAT ONE. BUT YOU KNOW, I JUST THINK ABOUT, YOU KNOW, "JOE LUNCHBUCKET," WHO TAKES HIS LUNCH TO WORK EVERY DAY, WHO WORKS EVERY DAY, COMES HOME. AND HE SEES THESE STATISTICS THAT CAME OUT TODAY IN AN ARTICLE, THAT ONE OUT OF FIVE FAMILIES IN AMERICA HAVE NOBODY WORKING. WELL, SOME OF THEM ARE LIVING ON RETIREMENT INCOME, BUT A LOT OF THEM ARE LIVING ON US. AND WHEN YOU HAVE JUST A REGULAR GUY, JUST WORKS A REGULAR JOB, TRIES TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN ON THE WEEKEND, TRIES TO MAKE SURE HIS KIDS GET THROUGH ALL THEIR ACTIVITIES, AND WE KEEP COMING

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

BACK TO HIM AND SAY I'M SORRY. WE JUST CAN'T SPARE ANY MONEY. WE NEED YOUR MONEY WORSE THAN YOU DO. I THINK THAT IS HORRIBLE. AND YOU KNOW, THEN WE COME BACK AND WE SAY BUT, HEY, WE ARE GOING TO RAISE YOUR GAS TAX. WE REALLY NEED THE MONEY THERE. AND WE'RE GOING TO GIVE, YOU KNOW, THE WOODMEN, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM A TAX EXEMPTION, AND WE'RE GOING TO GIVE A TAX EXEMPTION TO THE ZOO. I THINK THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OUT THERE MAYBE THAT I'M EVEN FORGETTING. BUT WE JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO DO ANY TAX RELIEF FOR YOU. ARE YOU KIDDING ME? REALLY? THAT'S THE WAY WE'RE GOING TO TREAT THE TAXPAYER OF OUR STATE? THE REGULAR GUYS THAT WORK EVERY DAY, THAT DON'T HAVE A LOBBYIST. WELL, YOU KNOW, WE NEED TO REPRESENT THEM. AND I'M SORRY, I...THIS IS...I UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR THIS BILL. I MEAN, I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND IT. I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT SENATOR MELLO IS TRYING TO DO. BUT UNTIL WE CAN DO SOMETHING FOR THE REGULAR PEOPLE THAT JUST GO TO WORK THAT DON'T HAVE A LOBBYIST, I JUST CAN'T SUPPORT ANY TAX RELIEF FOR ANYONE SPECIAL. AND YOU KNOW, IF WE HAD DONE A LOT OF TAX RELIEF, AND WE'D CUT TAXES, WE GOT MARCHING DOWN THE ROAD SLOWLY VERY SLOWLY AND METHODICALLY TOWARD TAX RELIEF AND WE HAD SOMETHING IN PLACE, MAYBE WE'D FEEL A LITTLE MORE COMFORTABLE ABOUT THIS. BUT NOT RIGHT NOW, NOT WHILE WE'RE TELLING THE REGULAR WORKING MAN, SORRY, WE JUST CAN'T SPARE ANY MORE MONEY. WE JUST HAVE TO SPEND YOUR MONEY FOR YOU BECAUSE WE CAN DO IT BETTER THAN YOU. I CAN'T GO FOR THAT. AND I'M NOT GOING TO SUPPORT ANY SPECIAL TAX RELIEF UNTIL WE GIVE SOME TAX RELIEF TO THE WORKING MEN AND WORKING WOMEN OF THIS STATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER. SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES, AND GOOD AFTERNOON, NEBRASKA. I DON'T THINK I COULD SAY IT ANY DIFFERENTLY OR ANY BETTER THAN WHAT SENATOR MELLO HAS DONE IN TERMS OF THE INVESTMENT AND IN TERMS OF THE PURPOSE OF LB419. AND IT'S NO SURPRISE, I SUPPORT LB419. IT IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IT IS GROWTH. SENATOR GROENE AND SENATOR FRIESEN AND OTHERS, I'D INVITE YOU TO LOOK IT UP. IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE BETTING ON WYNN-DIXIE IN THE SIXTH. THIS ZOO IN OMAHA HAS BEEN THERE SINCE THE 1800s. THIS IS NOT A FLY-BY-NIGHT INVESTMENT. THERE'S AN INVESTMENT BEING MADE IN ANOTHER PORTION OF THE ZOO THAT WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE YEARS IS PROJECTED TO BRING IN ANOTHER \$14.7 MILLION, MOST OF THAT HAS COME FROM PRIVATE MONEY.

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, I TAKE EXCEPTION TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE NOT ALREADY GIVEN THESE FOLKS GENERAL FUND MONEY; \$1.8 MILLION COMES FROM MY TAX MONEY FROM THE CITY OF OMAHA, FROM OUR TAX MONEY THAT SUPPORTS THE ZOO. SOMETHING THAT WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT CUTTING AID TO MUNICIPALITIES, WHEN WE DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS IN TERMS OF INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE, THE CITY WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO PITCH IN THE \$1.8 MILLION. AND, YES, I HAVE ASKED THE QUESTION AND, YES, THEY ARE INTENDING ON LOOKING AT THIS THING LONG TERM AND REDUCING THAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ZOO AND TO THE FOUNDATION. SO I SEE THIS AS \$1.8 MILLION OF GENERAL FUND SAVINGS IN THE CITY FOR AN OFFSET IN TAX REVENUE IN A SPECIFIC PORTION, WHICH BY THE WAY, IF YOU LOOK AT THE FISCAL NOTE, PRETTY MUCH BALANCES OUT BETWEEN WHAT WE'RE ALREADY SPENDING AS A STATE. AND YOU'LL SAY, NO, NOT AS A STATE. THAT'S THE CITY OF OMAHA. WELL, GUESS WHAT? EVERY DIME THAT WE GIVE THEM GOES SOMEPLACE IN THAT GENERAL FUND AND IT SAVES THEM \$1.8 MILLION IN THEIR GENERAL FUND CONTRIBUTION. SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THE STATEMENT ANY CLEARER, ANY CLEARER. YOU WANT A SUNSET? LET'S TALK ABOUT SUNSETS. I BELIEVE, AS SENATOR MELLO DOES AND AS OTHER FOLKS ON THE FLOOR HAVE TALKED ABOUT, PUTTING A SUNSET ON SOUND INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM IS A SMART THING...IS NOT A SMART THING TO DO BECAUSE YOU'VE ALREADY ANALYZED THAT IT'S WORTH YOUR INVESTMENT LONG TERM. AND IF YOU WANT TO HAVE THE DISCUSSION, I HAVE AN AMENDMENT THAT WILL BE COMING UP THAT THEN PUTS A SUNSET ON ALL THE AG EQUIPMENT TAX EXEMPTIONS THAT WE GAVE WITHIN THE LAST COUPLE YEARS. AND THEN LET'S TALK ABOUT IF WE WANT TO SUNSET THAT ONE AND IF THAT BRINGS GOOD BUSINESS INTO NEBRASKA. AND I'M NOT KIDDING, IN THE TIME THAT I'VE BEEN IN THIS BODY WE HAVE ISSUED THE LARGEST TAX REFUND IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, SO WE'VE DONE SOMETHING FOR THE LUNCH BOX CARRIER IN THE STATE. WE HAVE GIVEN TAX EXEMPTIONS AND KICKBACKS OR RETURNS, THE SMALLEST TAX REFUND IN HISTORY. WE DID THAT A FEW YEARS AGO. LOOK IT UP. WE'VE BEEN MAKING EVERY CONCESSION WE CAN TO PUT NEW BUSINESS INTO THE STATE IF WE NEED TO DO THAT. SENATOR HADLEY SHOULD BE APPLAUDED FOR THE THINGS THAT HE HAS DONE. AND WE DON'T MAKE THESE DECISIONS BASED UPON LET'S SEE IF IT WILL WORK WILLY-NILLY--TECHNICAL TERM. WE'RE DOING THIS BASED UPON A FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND BUSINESS DECISION AND INVESTMENT. THIS IS, LB419 IS A SOUND INVESTMENT INTO OUR FUTURE, INTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INTO TOURISM. I STAND OPPOSED TO AM1406... [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB419]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR KRIST: ...IN SUPPORT OF LB419, AND I WELCOME THE DEBATE ON THE SUNSET ON AG EQUIPMENT WHEN IT COMES UP IN AN HOUR OR WHATEVER IT TAKES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, AND GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES. I'M AMAZED AT WHERE THIS DISCUSSION HAS GONE TODAY. I WAS ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE WHO WOULD HAVE VOTED NO, AND AFTER GIVING IT SOME THOUGHT I WAS THE EIGHTH VOTE TO MAKE IT UNANIMOUS. I BELIEVE AS A FARMER WE INVEST. WE INVEST IN OUR EQUIPMENT. WE INVEST IN OUR FERTILIZER. WE INVEST ON IRRIGATION. WE INVEST ON MANY, MANY THINGS TO PROMOTE GROWTH. I'M SADDENED TO HEAR NOW FARMERS ARE GETTING POKED IN THE EYE OVER THIS BILL BECAUSE WE DECIDED TO INVEST IN OUR ZOOS. THIS IS NOT AN OMAHA BILL. WE HAD AN EXCELLENT TESTIMONY FROM OUT IN GERING AND SCOTTSBLUFF. THEY HAVE A ZOO THERE TOO. LINCOLN HAS A ZOO. AND IN FACT, THE PERSON THAT TESTIFIED, ANNE JAMES FROM OUT IN I BELIEVE GERING OR SCOTTSBLUFF, THE RIVERSIDE DISCOVERY CENTER IS THE SMALLEST ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS ACCREDITED IN NEBRASKA WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION. AND THEN SHE GOES ON TO SAY THAT THEIR ZOO HAS SUCH A SMALL FINANCIAL BASE. AND THAT THEIR POPULATION IN SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY TOTALS 37,700 INDIVIDUALS, AND THAT THEY HAVE VERY FEW LARGE CORPORATIONS AND VERY FEW MILLIONAIRES FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT. AND THEY SAW LB419 AS A GREAT RELIEF AND A GREAT INVESTMENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THAT ZOO MORE SUSTAINABLE. AND THEY MENTIONED THAT THE ZOO BROUGHT IN...BRINGS IN ABOUT \$1 MILLION OF ANNUAL TOURISM REVENUE FOR THEIR COUNTY. SO THIS IS NOT JUST AN OMAHA ZOO. THE LINCOLN ZOO, THEY HAD A TESTIFIER THERE, TOO, AND TALKED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY, I BELIEVE, TO EXPAND OR DO MORE WITH THE ZOO. I WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED WHEN I...WHEN WE HAD THE HEARING, IT WAS FEBRUARY 18, I DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE THAT WE WEREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO ADVANCE LB350 OUT OF COMMITTEE. BUT IT WASN'T THE URBAN SENATORS THAT WERE HOLDING BACK. OMAHA HAS NOTHING TO LOSE WITH THE TAX REDUCTION. THEY DON'T RELY ON AG LAND TO FUND THE SCHOOLS, VERY LITTLE. THEY HAVE...LINCOLN ALSO, IT WAS GETTING OUT INTO OUR CLASS D SCHOOLS WAS THE PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM ISN'T THE OMAHA SENATORS. IT'S OUR RURAL SENATORS. I HEAR 17 RURAL SENATORS HERE DO NOT THINK THAT 75 PERCENT TO 65 PERCENT WILL WORK. IT'S NOT GOOD

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

ENOUGH, WILL HURT SCHOOLS. THEY HAVE A LIST OF CONCERNS ON WHY PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR AG LAND WILL NOT COME OUT OF COMMITTEE AND GO FORWARD. I'M SADDENED TO HEAR THAT. BUT IF I HAVE THE CHANCE, AS A NEBRASKAN, AS A STATE SENATOR, TO HELP A ZOO IN SCOTTSBLUFF, PERHAPS TO MAKE THE ZOO IN LINCOLN OR OMAHA OR OTHER ZOOS BECOME A NATIONAL...GREATER NATIONAL SHOWCASE, THAT THEY CAN REINVEST IN THEIR BUSINESS AS A FARMER, I'M GOING TO KEEP INVESTING. MY HUSBAND AND I, WE'LL KEEP BUYING THE FERTILIZER. WE'LL KEEP INVESTING IN THE EQUIPMENT TO PROMOTE GROWTH, AND WE LOOK FOR EVERY OPPORTUNITY AND WE WERE GIVEN SOME TAX RELIEF ON EQUIPMENT LAST YEAR. IT'S MY HOPE THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK AT... [LB419 LB350]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB419]

SENATOR BRASCH: ...AG LAND RELIEF. BUT I DID VOTE FOR THIS BILL BECAUSE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO NOT GROW REVENUES. THIS IS ABOUT BRINGING MORE MONEY INTO THE ZOO SO THEY CAN BRING MORE MONEY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MORE EMPLOYEES IN OUR STATE. SO, SENATORS, I DO SUPPORT THIS. I AM CONSIDERING THE AMENDMENT. I'M NOT CERTAIN, BUT I THINK FIVE YEARS, IS THAT ENOUGH TIME OR IS IT NOT? THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, AND THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. SENATOR HUGHES, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I WANT TO THANK SENATOR MELLO FOR BRINGING THIS BILL FORWARD TO STIMULATE THE DISCUSSION THAT WE HAVE ABOUT TAXES IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND SENATOR FRIESEN FOR OFFERING THE AMENDMENT TO CONTINUE THAT DISCUSSION. I'M A FIRM BELIEVER IN INCENTIVES, THAT YOU PROVIDE INCENTIVES, YOU WILL MAKE THINGS GROW. AND THE INCENTIVE TO THE OMAHA ZOO IS A WONDERFUL THING. BUT IT DOES COME AT A COST. YOU DO HAVE TO WEIGH THE COST VERSUS THE BENEFIT, AND I'M SURE THAT SENATOR MELLO LOOKED AT THAT COST-BENEFIT RATIO. IN HIS MIND, HE FEELS THAT IT IS A WORTHY INVESTMENT. BUT AS BEFORE WHEN I TALKED ABOUT THIS BILL, IT'S ABOUT PROPERTY TAX. AND IT'S NOT ABOUT RURAL PROPERTY TAX. I'M TALKING ABOUT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR EVERYONE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA THAT PAYS IT. THERE'S A MAP THAT IS FROM THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH OFFICE THAT GIVES YOU A PERCENTAGE. THE AVERAGE PROPERTY

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

TAX FOR NEBRASKA IN 2014 WAS 1.79 PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF THE ASSETS OF THE COUNTIES. AND IF YOU LOOK AT THAT, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PAYING THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAX AS A PERCENTAGE OF VALUE ARE THE POPULATED COUNTIES. THEY'RE NOT THE RURAL COUNTIES. IT'S THE PEOPLE IN THE CITIES THAT ARE BEING TAXED DISPROPORTIONATELY BY PROPERTY TAX. SO THIS IS NOT A RURAL-URBAN ISSUE. THIS IS A STATE OF NEBRASKA ISSUE. AND AS I STATED BEFORE, THE PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM IN THIS STATE IS BROKEN. WE NEED TO FIX THAT. AND UNTIL THIS BODY DECIDES TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND TACKLE THAT MONSTER, I'M GOING TO TAKE THESE OPPORTUNITIES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT'S ON A SALES TAX OR AN INCOME TAX OR A PROPERTY TAX BILL, TO POINT THAT OUT, THAT PROPERTY TAX IS AN ISSUE FOR EVERY SINGLE CITIZEN IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA WHO PAYS IT. WE HAVE CHOSEN A CLASS OF WEALTH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IN THE TAX ARENA AND THAT'S NOT RIGHT. AND PART OF THE PROBLEM IS CITIES' SALES TAXES. I'VE GOT AN ARTICLE THAT WAS IN THE McCOOK GAZETTE, APRIL 24, 2015. THE HEADLINE READS: PROPERTY TAX LIKELY TO INCREASE DESPITE SALES TAX. THE CITY RECEIVES MORE THAN \$1.5 MILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE FROM THE 1 PERCENT CITY SALES TAX, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY VOTERS TO BE SPLIT EVENLY BETWEEN PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND PROJECTS COMMITTED BY THE CITY TO RESIDENTS. SO THE SALES TAX THAT I PAY IN LINCOLN GOES TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LINCOLN. IS THAT FAIR? THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT WE NEED TO DECIDE AS LEGISLATORS. IS THAT GOOD POLICY FOR EVERYBODY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA? I REPEAT, WE ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A CLASS OF WEALTH BECAUSE IT CANNOT FLEE THE STATE, AND WE ARE TAXING THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF IT. AND THAT'S NOT RIGHT. I AGREE WITH SENATOR FRIESEN'S AMENDMENT. I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE A LOOK FIVE YEARS FROM NOW, SEE IF IT PAID OFF.. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB419]

SENATOR HUGHES: ...IT WAS A WORTHY INVESTMENT. AND IT'S NOT URBAN-RURAL. IT'S NOT SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR FARM MACHINERY OR INPUTS THAT I USE ON MY FARM. THIS IS ABOUT WHAT'S RIGHT FOR ALL THE PROPERTY TAXPAYERS IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HUGHES. SENATOR KOLOWSKI, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: THANK YOU, SIR. APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK EVERYONE TO JUST THINK FOR A SECOND AND BRING SOME COMMON SENSE TO THIS DISCUSSION. MY SUPPORT FOR LB419 AND OPPOSING AM1406 IS BASED ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE AT THE ZOO? HOW MANY KIDS OR GRANDKIDS DID YOU TAKE? WHAT DID THAT EXPERIENCE COST YOU IN TOTAL BY THE TIME YOU ENTERED AND LEFT THE ZOO, BECAUSE IT IS A VERY ACTIVE LOCATION WHERE A LOT OF MONEY CHANGES HANDS. JUST LOOK AT THE DESIGN AND HOW IT'S SET UP WHERE YOU EXIT THROUGH THE GIFT SHOP. IT'S PURPOSELY DESIGNED TO HELP DO SOME OF THE THINGS THAT THEY WANT TO DO WITH SALES, OVERTIME, NOT JUST SALES ON THE TICKETS AT THE ENTRANCE BUT ACROSS THE ENTIRE COMPLEX--THE DIFFERENT RIDES, THE FOOD, THE TRINKETS YOU MIGHT BUY, THE MEMORY-MAKERS FOR YOUR GRANDKIDS OR YOUR KIDS. IF IT'S LIKE GOING TO A BIG RED GAME ON SATURDAY, YOU PAY \$40 TO \$60 FOR YOUR TICKET. I KNOW OF NO ONE WHO WOULD SAY TO THEMSELVES I'M JUST GOING TO FORECAST THAT I'M SPENDING \$5 ON POPCORN, THAT'S IT, OVER THREE HOURS, NEVER HAPPENS. SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SPENDING, AND THOSE ARE TAX DOLLARS ALSO AWAY FROM THE TICKET TO GET INTO THE ZOO. THE HENRY DOORLY ZOO IS A TREASURE FOR THIS REGION, NOT JUST THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, FOR THIS REGION. AND THE DIFFERENCE IT'S MADE ON YEARLY ATTENDANCE RECORD-BREAKING EXPERIENCES HAS PAID OFF FOR THE CITY OF OMAHA, FOR THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, AND FOR OUR ENTIRE REGION. WE'RE TALKING MOTELS, HOTELS, GASOLINE STATIONS, EVERYTHING ELSE THAT HAS DRAWN PEOPLE TO THAT POINT. I HOPE WE THINK OF THE BIGGER PICTURE, NOT JUST A TAX AT THE GATE TO BUY A TICKET TO GET IN, BUT THE ENTIRE EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU'RE IN THE ZOO. AND I WOULD ALSO SUGGEST YOU LOOK AT THEIR PLANS. GO ONLINE AND SEE WHAT THEY'RE THINKING ABOUT IN THE FUTURE, WHAT DR. SIMMONS DID IN HIS PAST WORK AND WHAT MR. PATE IS DOING IN HIS CURRENT WORK AS DIRECTORS OF THE ZOO IS WORLD CLASS. I SUPPORT LB419 AND URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF IT AS WELL. THANK YOU. I'D LIKE TO...(MICROPHONE MALFUNCTION) SENATOR KRIST THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME, PLEASE. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KOLOWSKI. SENATOR KRIST, 2 MINUTES. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: I JUST NEED TO AMEND THE RECORD. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WHEN I TALKED ABOUT THE OFFSET FROM THE CITY OF OMAHA, IT'S THE 2 PERCENT SALES TAX WHICH DOESN'T ADD UP TO \$1.8 MILLION. IT ADDS UP TO \$1 MILLION THAT THE CITY AGAIN IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE TOTAL. SO, MISREAD THE FISCAL NOTE, MY MISTAKE. SO IT WOULD BE \$1.8 MILLION OF MY

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

TAX DOLLARS GOING THERE, PLUS ANOTHER \$1 MILLION OF MY TAX REVENUE FROM GENERAL FUNDS THAT WOULD BE TAKEN IF THIS, LB419 PASSES. AND I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU VOTE GREEN ON LB419 AND RED ON AM1406. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. IT'S AMAZING HOW FAST THE DISCUSSION HAS TURNED. I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT TAX POLICY. I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES. I WAS TALKING ABOUT OUR TAX POLICY IN GENERAL. WE JUST DID A TAX MODERNIZATION STUDY, AND IT SAID YOU DO NOT TAX SOMEONE'S INPUTS. SO WHAT IMMEDIATELY TURNS TO SOMEONE THREATENING TO TAKE AWAY A SALES TAX EXEMPTION ON MY INPUTS, IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP, YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE. WE'RE FOLLOWING WHAT THE COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED. I WANT TO STICK TO THAT. I'M LOOKING AT THIS AS TAX POLICY. THE PART I DID WAS COMPROMISE A LITTLE BIT BY ALLOWING A FIVE-YEAR SUNSET, OTHERWISE I JUST WOULD HAVE FLAT OUT OPPOSED LB419. I SAW VALUE IN IT. IT'S ONE WAY OF ACCOMPLISHING IT. THERE'S NUMEROUS WAYS WE COULD HAVE RUN IT THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS. BUT TO START THREATENING TO TAKE AWAY SOME OTHER POLICY BECAUSE SOMEONE SPEAKS UP, THAT DOESN'T WORK HERE. SOME OTHER THINGS THAT WE TALKED ABOUT WAS NONPROFIT SPORTING EVENTS. YOU KNOW, THOSE ARE LOCAL EVENTS. THOSE MAKE SENSE TO JUST TAKE IT OFF. IT'S JUST THE LOCAL PEOPLE PAYING TO GET INTO A LOCAL EVENT, NOT A BIG DEAL. ALL OF THE BIG DONATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE, THEY'RE FANTASTIC AND I APPLAUD THOSE THAT SEE VALUE IN DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS AND DIFFERENT...THE ZOO. THERE'S ALL SORTS OF ORGANIZATIONS WHERE PEOPLE DONATE TONS OF MONEY TO AND THEY ALL GET A TAX WRITE-OFF FOR IT AND NOT A PROBLEM HERE. I APPRECIATE EVERY DOLLAR THAT GOES INTO THESE ORGANIZATIONS. WHAT MY AMENDMENT DOES IS GIVES CERTAINTY. AND IT GIVES THEM FIVE YEARS OF TAX REVENUE, AND AFTER THAT THEY KEEP SENDING IT BACK TO THE STATE WHERE IT ORIGINALLY GOES NOW. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT TAX POLICY, WHEN YOU LOOK AT FLORIDA, THEIR TOURISM INDUSTRY, THEY HAVE NO STATE INCOME TAX BECAUSE THEY HAVE SALES TAX. THEY DON'T EXEMPT THEIR LARGEST INDUSTRY FROM SALES TAX. THEY JACK IT UP UNTIL IT'S IN THAT 8 PERCENT AND 9 PERCENT. AND THEN THEY DON'T HAVE A STATE INCOME TAX. IT'S WHERE WE WANT TO GET OUR MONEY FROM, HOW WE WANT TO RUN OUR STATE AND HOW WE WANT TO LOOK AT TAX POLICY. I WAS FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAX

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE. AND IN THAT COMMITTEE, THEY TELL US NOT TO TAX INPUTS TO ANY BUSINESS. I AGREE WITH THAT 100 PERCENT. I STAND WITH HENRY DOORLY ZOO AND ALL THE OTHER ZOOS. THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY SALES TAX ON ANY OF THEIR INPUT COSTS. I AGREE WITH POLICY. BUT WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE REST OF IT, I LOOK AT ADMISSIONS, MEMBERSHIPS, THAT'S DOLLARS. IT COMES MAYBE FROM A LOT OF OUTSIDE THE STATE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR PERCENTAGE IS. BUT IT'S A REVENUE STREAM THAT I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD GIVE UP. IF WE'RE GOING TO GROW THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN THIS STATE, LOOK AT THE POTENTIAL WE HAVE. THERE'S OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS. AS THEY GET MORE SUCCESSFUL, DO WE EXEMPT THEM, HELP THEM OUT? THAT'S NOT HOW USUALLY POLICY WORKS. WE INCENTIVIZE...TRY TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING, NOT THOSE WHO HAVE SUCCEEDED. SO I LOVE THE DISCUSSION. I WISH WE COULD KEEP IT ON TOPIC. AND I DO LOOK FORWARD TO THE DEBATE DOWN THE ROAD ON PROPERTY TAXES BECAUSE IT DOES AFFECT URBAN AND RURAL SENATORS. IT AFFECTS THE HOMEOWNER AND THE FARMER. AND IT IS A DISCUSSION WE NEED TO HAVE. AND TO ME, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT WILL GET DONE THIS YEAR. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB419]

SENATOR FRIESEN: BUT WE WILL SPEND TIME DISCUSSING IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I THINK THERE JUST NEEDS TO BE, I GUESS, A GENERAL POINT OF CLARIFICATION A LITTLE BIT IN REGARDS TO SOME OF THE DIALOGUE I'VE HEARD THIS AFTERNOON ON THE FLOOR IN THE SENSE OF SOMEHOW CONNECTING TARGETED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX POLICY TO OVERARCHING, BIGGER-PICTURE TAX CONSIDERATIONS AND WHAT THE LEGISLATURE HAS OR HAS NOT DONE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. SENATOR HADLEY I KNOW HAS HIS MIKE ON AT SOME POINT AND HE CAN PROBABLY GET UP AND WALK THE LEGISLATURE THROUGH THE PRETTY SIGNIFICANT TAX SHIFTS AND CHANGES WE MADE OVER THE LAST COUPLE YEARS. AND SENATOR GLOOR HAS HIS LIGHT ON AS WELL. AND SO TO SOME EXTENT, FOR A MEMBER TO STAND UP AND SAY THAT THIS IS SOME SWEETHEART DEAL OR SOME SPECIAL BREAK WHEN THESE...ARGUABLY THIS IS THE THIRD-LARGEST

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

INDUSTRY IN OUR STATE, IT IS THE LARGEST TOURIST ATTRACTION IN OUR STATE, AND THAT ARGUABLY THE STATE HAS NEVER BEEN A PARTNER WITH THIS INDUSTRY IN THIS SPECIFIC SENSE SHOULD SPEAK VOLUMES IN REGARDS TO WHY WE HAVE DONE OTHER SIMILAR POLICY CONSIDERATIONS AND OTHER TAX POLICY CONSIDERATIONS OVER THE LAST SEVEN YEARS. WHETHER OR NOT, SO TO SPEAK, WE DON'T CHARGE SALES TAXES FOR OTHER MEMBERSHIPS, OTHER ADMISSIONS, COLLEAGUES, IT'S NOT AN ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT IT'S LOCAL OR OUT OF STATE, AND I THINK I JUST HEARD MY FRIEND SENATOR FRIESEN TRY TO DRAW THAT COMPARISON, THAT, WELL, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE A SALES TAX BEING PAID IF IT'S MORE OF A LOCAL EVENT OR IT'S AN EVENT THAT MAY OR MAY NOT DRAW PEOPLE FROM OUT OF STATE. COLLEAGUES, THAT'S NOT THE TAX POLICY THAT WE CONSIDER. IT'S THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE STATE SHOULD BE CHARGING A SALES TAX ON ADMISSIONS TO CERTAIN KINDS OF EVENTS OR FOR CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS OR MEMBERSHIP DUES OR COSTS TO CERTAIN ENTITIES. I'D REMIND EVERYONE WHAT WE DISCUSSED ON GENERAL FILE, THAT ALL OF THE ZOOS IN THE STATE ARE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS RIGHT NOW WITH ALL CITY GOVERNMENTS. CITY GOVERNMENTS RIGHT NOW ARE EXEMPT FROM TAXES, AND THE QUESTION THAT COULD BE RAISED IS WHY HAVEN'T ZOOS THAT ARE ESSENTIALLY EXTENSIONS OF CITY GOVERNMENTS, WHY HAVEN'T THEY BEEN EXEMPTED A LONG TIME AGO, BECAUSE THE CITY OF OMAHA, CITY OF LINCOLN, AND CITY OF SCOTTSBLUFF, THEY'RE NOT REQUIRED TO PAY SALES TAXES. THEY'VE GOT A CONTRACT WITH THESE ENTITIES TO RUN THESE ZOOS TO BRING IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO THE STATE AND CITY AND COUNTY. AND TO SOME EXTENT, I GUESS THAT'S A QUESTION THAT WE TALKED AND DISCUSSED ON GENERAL FILE, AND I DON'T KNOW IF THAT REALLY SUNK IN IN REGARDS TO THE OVERALL DEBATE, THAT THIS IS NOT NEW GROUND WE'RE PLOWING. THE SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR HISTORIC AUTOMOBILE MUSEUMS IS NOT THE SAME THING AS AN ENTITY THAT IS ESSENTIALLY CONTROLLED BY THE LAND WHERE IT'S LOCATED ON BY A CERTAIN CITY OR MUNICIPALITY. AND IN REGARDS TO THE CONVERSATION OF OTHER BIGGER TAX POLICY THAT MEMBERS WANT TO DISCUSS, IF WE WANT TO DISCUSS WIDE-RANGING INCOME AND PROPERTY TAX AND SALES TAX PHILOSOPHIES ON LB419, WE CAN DO SO, COLLEAGUES. WE CAN SPEND FOUR HOURS AND WE CAN GO TO A CLOTURE VOTE TO DISCUSS WHAT WE ALL WANT TO SEE IN A PERFECT TAX CLIMATE. THE REALITY IS LB419 DOES NOT HAVE AN IMPACT IN REGARDS TO ADDRESSING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF OR PROPERTY TAX REFORMS. IT'S A FISCAL NOTE OF \$2.5 MILLION OVER THE BIENNIUM, AND IT'S IN A REINVESTMENT INTO THE STATE'S THIRD-LARGEST INDUSTRY. IF WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT PROPERTY TAX REFORM, THEN WE SHOULD BE TALKING ABOUT EDUCATION FINANCING

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

AND EDUCATION FUNDING. WE SHOULD BE LOOKING AT WHAT WE'RE DOING IN REGARDS TO SOME OF THE CHALLENGES I KNOW THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HAS BEEN TRYING TO ADDRESS. LB419, COLLEAGUES, IS NOT THAT SOLUTION AND IT DOES NOT HAVE THE IMPACT THAT I THINK... [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB419]

SENATOR MELLO: ...SOME MEMBERS WANT TO HOPE IT WILL HAVE IN REGARDS TO EITHER MUDDYING THE WATERS OR TRYING TO BLUR THE LINES IN REGARDS TO WHAT WE'RE DISCUSSING. THIS IS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL THAT IS ENCOURAGING INCREASED INVESTMENT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR INTO THE STATE'S THIRD-LARGEST INDUSTRY. IT'S THAT PLAIN. IT'S THAT SIMPLE. WE HAVE OTHER BILLS THAT WE'VE PASSED THAT SENATORS HAVEN'T ASKED A QUESTION ON, THAT INVOLVE VERY SIMILAR CONCEPTS, COLLEAGUES, OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND INCENTIVIZING PRIVATE INVESTMENT THROUGH INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS OR CORPORATE TAX DEDUCTIONS BASED ON WHATEVER PRIVATE INVESTMENT THEY MAKE, YET I HAVE NOT HEARD MEMBERS OF THE BODY STAND UP AND SHOUT IN ARMS THAT THIS IS TAKING AWAY FROM PROPERTY TAX RELIEF OR WE'RE NOT ADDRESSING BIGGER PROPERTY TAX REFORM. EVEN MEMBERS WHO SAID THEY WON'T SUPPORT LB419 HAVE VOTED FOR THOSE OTHER BILLS THAT IN NATURE ARE VERY SIMILAR TO THE CONCEPTS. SO I SIMPLY ASK EVERYONE TO TAKE A STEP BACK AND REALIZE, ONE, THIS IS A TAX POLICY THAT IS NOT NEW OR FOREIGN TO THE LEGISLATURE. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB419]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR KEN HAAR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR HAAR: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, SINCE THE DISCUSSION HAS...BY THE WAY, I STAND IN SUPPORT OF LB419 AND AGAINST AM1406. AND SINCE THE DISCUSSION HAS SOMEWHAT TURNED TO TAX POLICY, I SIT HERE WONDERING ABOUT THE TIMES WE HAVE TURNED OUR BACKS ON INCREASES IN PROPERTY TAX THAT...FROM NEW THINGS LIKE THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY. MANY STUDIES NOW HAVE BEEN DONE TO SHOW THAT IF WE DEVELOP THE WIND ENERGY IN NEBRASKA, THERE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

WOULD BE A LARGE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX THAT IF USED WISELY BY THE COUNTIES, COULD REDUCE PROPERTY TAX ON FARMLAND AND SO ON. AS AN EXAMPLE, I HAVE SOME FIGURES HERE FROM IOWA AND FROM NEBRASKA. FOR EXAMPLE, IOWA HAS ABOUT 6,000 MEGAWATTS OF DEVELOPED WIND, AND THAT WOULD CREATE ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX OF \$1.5 MILLION PER MEGAWATT, SO TIMES SIX IS ABOUT...IOWA IS, BASED ON NEBRASKA'S PROPERTY TAX RATES, WOULD HAVE GARNERED ABOUT \$9 MILLION IN PROPERTY TAX RIGHT NOW PER YEAR FROM WIND DEVELOPMENT. NEBRASKA IS GARNERING ABOUT A \$1.5 MILLION. SO AS WE GO AHEAD AND TALK ABOUT TAX POLICY, I THINK WE ALSO NEED TO TALK ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENERATING ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX THAT COULD RELIEVE THE CURRENT PROPERTY TAX BURDEN, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL NEBRASKA. AND SO THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I KEEP WONDERING ABOUT, IS WHY DO WE IGNORE THESE SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY WHEN WE WOULD LIKE TO REDUCE THE PROPERTY TAX ON LANDOWNERS? AND THERE ARE EXAMPLES IN THE STATE WHERE WIND ENERGY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED UP IN BLOOMFIELD AND SO ON, WHERE NOW A SIZABLE PORTION OF THE COUNTY'S PROPERTY TAX COMES FROM WIND DEVELOPMENT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [LB419]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HAAR. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. GOOD AFTERNOON, MEMBERS. I RISE IN OPPOSITION TO AM1406 AND IN SUPPORT OF LB419. ALTHOUGH I WAS NOT A DISCIPLE OF LB419 WHEN IT BEGAN, HARD SELL, BUT ULTIMATELY HAD TO ADMIT THAT WHEN IT COMES TO TOURISM, WHICH WE TALK AN AWFUL LOT ABOUT, MAKE POLICY DECISIONS, PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR, AT LEAST HAVE AS LONG AS I'VE BEEN DOWN HERE, IN THE HOPES THAT WE CAN STIMULATE MORE TOURISM, WHEN YOU'VE GOT WINNERS AS WE DO IN LB419, ESPECIALLY HENRY DOORLY, IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE TO ME ULTIMATELY TO BET ON WINNERS. AND THAT'S THE REASON, THE SHORT EXPLANATION WHY I WAS IN SUPPORT OF LB419 IN GENERAL AND I WILL BE IN SELECT. BUT I WANT TO GO BACK TO...SENATOR HADLEY AND I PLAY A LITTLE TAG TEAM WHEN IT COMES TO THE ISSUE OF "AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY" WHEN IT COMES TO TAXES. LET ME RUN THROUGH A SHORT HISTORY OF THE TAX WORLD IN NEBRASKA GOING BACK TO THE 2012 SESSION AND FORWARD. BACK IN 2012, WE HAD A BILL THAT REDUCED INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATES, WIDENED THE BRACKETS, AND REDUCED TOP CORPORATE TAX RATES AND ELIMINATED THE INHERITANCE TAX. THIS WAS A THREE-YEAR PHASE IN COST FOR WIDENING THE BRACKETS AND ELIMINATING THE INHERITANCE TAX. THIS WAS JUST UNDER

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

\$100 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF. AND IT WAS, I WOULD ARGUE, LARGELY "JOE LUNCHBUCKET" TYPE CUTS. IN 2013, THERE WAS A BILL THAT HAD TO DO WITH EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLANS WHICH WE PASSED. IT WAS ABOUT \$3.5 MILLION. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, SOME OF YOU WILL RECALL, REPEALED THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX FOR TAXABLE YEARS--OR INTRODUCED IT AND WE REPEALED THAT. THE ESTIMATED COST FOR ELIMINATING THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX WAS ESTIMATED AT JUST OVER \$24 MILLION, ALSO A "JOE LUNCHBUCKET" TYPE OF CUT. THERE WAS ALSO A BILL RELATING TO NET OPERATING LOSS CARRYFORWARD. AT THAT TIME THE COST WAS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND \$8 MILLION, THAT ALSO PASSED. LAST YEAR, 2014, IT'S BEEN TALKED ABOUT, I'LL REITERATE IT AGAIN. THE FIRST CHANGE WAS TO BEGIN INDEXING THE BRACKETS FOR INFLATION FOR TAX YEARS TO ELIMINATE THE BRACKET CREEP. THE SECOND CHANGE WAS TO INCREASE THE INCOME THRESHOLDS UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME...UNDER WHICH SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION. IF YOU ROLL ALL THAT TOGETHER, THE COST FOR ALL OF THOSE THINGS, THAT WE BROUGHT FORWARD OVER A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD OF TIME IS ESTIMATED AROUND \$122 MILLION, \$122 MILLION. AND THOSE ARE ALL "JOE LUNCHBUCKET" TYPE OF CUTS. SENATOR JANSSEN, SOME OF YOU WILL RECALL, BROUGHT FORWARD A MODEST PROPOSAL FOR MILITARY RETIREMENT EXEMPTIONS. BUT EVEN THAT MODEST PROPOSAL COST US ABOUT \$4 MILLION. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THE AGRICULTURE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT REPAIR EXEMPTION. THAT WAS JUST OVER \$35 MILLION. HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION TO SOFTEN THE CLIFF EFFECT AND ALSO REQUIRING THAT WE INDEX THRESHOLDS FOR INFLATION, OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD OF TIME, THAT WAS JUST UNDER \$16 MILLION. AND ULTIMATELY IN THE BUDGET BILL, WE ADDED \$25 MILLION FROM THE CASH RESERVE TO THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FUND BRINGING THAT UP TO A TOTAL OF \$140 MILLION. THE BUDGET THIS YEAR WILL HAVE ANOTHER \$60 MILLION IN IT. IT'S MY HOPE THAT A BILL OUT OF THE COMMITTEE, IT'S ONE OF MY BILLS THAT RELATES TO PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION THAT WOULD BE SOMEWHERE AROUND \$16 MILLION, GETS PASSED AND INCLUDED. THAT IS A LOT OF DOLLARS FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. AND LET'S NOT FORGET ABOUT IT, I GUESS, WOULD BE MY POINT. THERE WERE 92 BILLS THAT WERE SUBMITTED TO THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST PRESIDING

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB419]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR GLOOR: THE VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE RELATE TO CREDITS, EXEMPTIONS, OR DEDUCTIONS--THE VAST MAJORITY. VERY FEW HAVE COME OUT. WE THINK THAT'S APPROPRIATE. NONETHELESS, THE CHALLENGE OF ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF IS SIMPLY ONE OF MONEY. WE'VE HAD--I'VE MENTIONED THIS BEFORE, EXPECT I'LL MENTION IT IN THE FUTURE--ISSUES WHERE WE'VE SPENT MONEY OR HAD TO SPEND MONEY AS A STATE ON THE CHALLENGES IN BSDC; ACCESSNEBRASKA; CORRECTIONS, AND THE BILL ISN'T COMPLETELY IN ON THAT; MEDICAID COST MANAGEMENT, I'M NOT EVEN TALKING ABOUT MEDICAID EXPANSION AND THE DOLLARS WE WAVED GOODBYE TO ON THAT, MANAGING OUR MEDICAID COSTS. THESE ARE AREAS WHERE WE COULD HAVE HAD AND SHOULD HAVE HAD HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF ADDITIONAL DOLLARS THAT WE COULD HAVE SPENT ON BROAD-BASED TAX RELIEF. WE'RE DOING WHAT WE CAN WITH THE DOLLARS WE HAVE AVAILABLE. WE'LL KEEP CHIPPING AWAY. IT'S ABOUT BUNTS AND SINGLES AND THE HOPE THAT THE REVENUE COMES FLOWING IN IN THE FUTURE FROM SOME OF THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS WE'RE MAKING THAT ALLOWS US FOR SOME SORT OF HOME RUN, SINCE THAT SEEMS... [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB419]

SENATOR GLOOR: ...TO BE WHAT PEOPLE WOULD LIKE. THANK YOU. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU KNOW, SOME COMMENTS WERE MADE. I WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYBODY KNOWS, I LIKE ZOOS. I LIKE THE HENRY DOORLY ZOO. I'M PROUD THAT IT'S IN OUR STATE OF NEBRASKA. BUT IT'S WORKING: NUMBER ONE IN THE UNITED STATES, ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD. THEY'VE BEEN PAYING THEIR TAXES. THEY'VE BEEN GROWING. HOW DO YOU GIVE THEM AN INCENTIVE WHEN THEY'RE ALREADY THE BEST? WHY GIVE THEM AN INCENTIVE? WHY NOT COLLECT THAT PROPERTY TAX...THAT SALES TAX AND PUT IT INTO OUR BUDGET? WHY NOT GENERATE THAT MONEY FROM THOSE VISITORS THAT COME TO THE ZOO? WE DO IT ON THEATER TICKETS. WE DO IT ON WATER PARKS. WE DO IT ON OTHER VENTURES WHEN THE PEOPLE COME TO HUNT HERE. WE...THEY PAY SALES TAX ON WHAT THEY DO. WHY? WHY? I HEARD SENATOR GLOOR GIVE A LIST OF THE EXEMPTIONS WE'VE DONE. MAYBE IT'S TIME TO QUIT. INSTEAD OF SAYING TIT FOR TAT, YOU GOT THIS, WE GOT THAT...BY THE WAY, ALL THAT LIST HE SAID, I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT ONE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

WHERE IT HELPED ME. BUT ANYWAY, I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND. I GUESS THERE'S ONE OR TWO THAT DID. BUT I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE KEEP DOING THIS. WHY CAN'T WE JUST GIVE EVERYBODY A TAX? WHY CAN'T WE CONTROL SPENDING? I LOOKED AT THE BUDGET. IF WE WORKED AND LOWERED .1 PERCENT, WE WOULD DROP \$43 MILLION OFF THE BUDGET...\$86 MILLION OFF IT. IF WE DID 1 PERCENT...NO, 1 PERCENT WOULD BE \$43 MILLION; 10 PERCENT WOULD BE \$436 MILLION. JUST 1 PERCENT, IF WE COULD DROP OFF OF IT, THAT'S \$43 MILLION. IF WE WORK ON SPENDING AS THIS BODY DOES AND CUT SPENDING AND NOT SPEND ANY MORE, THEN WE COULD DO THIS. WE COULD GIVE EVERYBODY TAX RELIEF. WE COULD GIVE ZOOS TAX RELIEF. WE COULD GIVE FARMERS TAX RELIEF. WE COULD GIVE HOMEOWNERS TAX RELIEF. LET'S...WHEN WE LOOK AT THIS BUDGET, LET'S START CUTTING SOME SPENDING; 3.1 PERCENT IS TOO MUCH. BUT THE ZOO HAS BEEN DOING FINE. AS TO...I'M AN AG SENATOR. AS TO THIS 75 PERCENT, 65 PERCENT, I LOOKED AT THAT. IT DOESN'T HELP THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT ARE HIGHLY PERCENTAGED AG LAND. IT DOES NOT HELP THEM. IT DOES NOT HELP THE WIDOW LADY WHO LIVES IN THE TOWN. HER TAXES WILL GO UP BECAUSE SOMEBODY HAS GOT TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE UP. IT'S REALLY...STIRS UP THE URBAN-RURAL DEBATE. IF WE LOOKED, AS SENATOR MELLO MENTIONED, REALLY HARD THIS SUMMER AT TEEOSA AND QUIT ARGUING ABOUT WHO GOT MORE PROPERTY AND WHO HAS LESS PROPERTY AND LOOK AT IT AS A STATEWIDE ISSUE ON PROPERTY TAXES AND FAIRNESS, AND THE STATE DOES WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO DO WHICH IS PROVIDE FOR FREE EDUCATION--LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO DO THAT, THE STATE IS--WE COULD FIX PROPERTY TAXES. WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PEOPLE WORRYING ABOUT ZOOS, WHICH ARE DOING JUST FINE, OR YOUR VALUATIONS. A LONG TIME AGO, I HAD A COUNTY COMMISSIONER TELL ME, WELL, MIKE, WE LOWERED YOUR LEVY. WE LOWERED YOUR LEVY. AND I FINALLY TOLD HIM WHEN YOU SHOW ME WHAT I CAN BUY WITH A VALUATION, WHEN YOU SHOW ME WHAT I CAN BUY WITH A LEVY, I'LL DECIDE MY TAXES, WHAT I PAY IN TAXES AND THOSE THINGS, UNTIL THEN I'LL DECIDE WHAT I PAY IN TAXES IN DOLLARS. WE PAY THEM IN DOLLARS. SO WE CAN ARGUE ABOUT VALUATIONS. WE CAN ARGUE ABOUT LEVIES. BUT THE REALITY IS WE'VE GOT TO LOOK AT THE DOLLARS. AND THAT STARTS WITH HOW WE SPEND, HOW DO WE CONTROL THE SPENDING, THE HUGE INCREASES IN EDUCATION SPENDING AND HOW EFFICIENT IT IS AND LOOK AT TEEOSA AND SAY WE'VE GOT TO...WE'VE REALLY GOT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE DEFINITION OF EQUALIZATION IS WHEN WE LOOK AT THE FORMULA. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB419]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR GROENE: BUT THE POINT ABOUT THIS ZOO TAX IS NOT HOW NICE THE ZOO IS AND HOW GREAT THE PEOPLE ARE THERE AND HOW...I'M PROUD OF THEM. THEY'VE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT THING: THE BEST ZOO IN THE UNITED STATES. BUT THERE'S A LOT OF COMPANIES THAT WORK AND PRESENT JOBS AND BRING PEOPLE TO NEBRASKA THAT COME...THAT ARE IN THIS STATE THAT AREN'T LOOKING FOR TAX BREAKS, OR THEY WOULD LIKE THEM. SO IF YOU DID A GOOD JOB WE GIVE YOU A TAX BREAK? COME ON, FOLKS. THIS IS JUST FOOLISHNESS. IT'S NOT NECESSARY. IF YOU TOLD ME THE ZOO'S ATTENDANCE WAS FALLING AND THE WALLS WERE FALLING DOWN AND THE GATES WERE RUSTING AND THEY NEEDED HELP, FINE. BUT THEY'RE GROWING. THEY'RE GETTING BIGGER. THEY'RE GETTING MORE FAMOUS WORLDWIDE. THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO ECONOMICAL REASON TO GIVE THEM A TAX BREAK JUST BECAUSE WE FEEL GOOD. IT'S A FEEL-GOOD TAX BREAK. THAT'S WHAT IT IS. THOSE BIG DONORS WHO GIVE MONEY TO THE ZOO, THEY GET A HUGE TAX BREAK, FOLKS, WHEN THEY WRITE IT OFF. THERE'S A REASON THEY DO IT, PROUD OF THEM. THEY'RE GIVING A DONATION TO THE ZOO. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB419]

SENATOR GROENE: AND THEY'RE GETTING A BIG TAX BREAK. SO ANYWAY, THANK YOU, FOLKS. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS AM1406. NORMALLY, SUNSETS ARE A GOOD THING IN THE NORMAL SITUATION BECAUSE IT FORCES A REVIEW OF THE POLICY BY THIS BODY, AND IT JUST DOESN'T GET FORGOTTEN IN A LONG LIST OF TAX EXEMPTIONS AND OTHER TAX MONIES. BUT THIS IS KIND OF A UNIQUE SITUATION INsofar AT LEAST AS THE HENRY DOORLY ZOO IS CONCERNED. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OPERATIONS OF THE OTHER TWO, AND MAYBE IT'S THE CASE THERE, MAYBE NOT. BUT THAT CAPITAL INVESTMENT WAS MADE BY LARGE-SCALE DONATIONS ON THE TUNE OF TENS AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. AND, YES, THEY DO GET A LITTLE TAX BENEFIT. IF THEY'RE IN A 40 PERCENT BRACKET, THEY SAVE 40 PERCENT. BUT THEY'RE PAYING 100 PERCENT IN DONATIONS. SO IT'S MEANINGFUL MONEY. MOST PEOPLE MAKING THAT KIND OF DONATION WANT TO SEE THE DONATION FOR A CAPITAL INVESTMENT: THE BUILDING OF A BUILDING, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FACILITY. THEY DON'T

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

WANT IT TO GO FOR DAY-TO-DAY EXPENSES, WHICH SHOULD SUSTAIN THEMSELVES IF THE INVESTMENT WAS PROPERLY MADE. SO IF WE'RE TO CONTINUE TO ENTICE THE INVESTMENT IN THE CAPITAL PART OF THE ZOO, WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT WHEN YOU BUILD A NEW ELEPHANT PALACE THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE FOOD YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR THE ELEPHANTS YOU PUT IN THE ELEPHANT PALACE AND THE MANURE SPREADERS THAT CARRY AWAY STUFF FROM THE ELEPHANT PALACE. AND THIS MONEY, IT LOOKS LIKE ABOUT \$2 MILLION A YEAR OR SO, GOES FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES. SO TO ENTICE A CAPITAL EXPENSE, THE BUILDING OF THE NEW RAZZLE-DAZZLE THAT ATTRACTS PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND THE PEOPLE WHO COME HERE FOR BUSINESS OR OTHER PURPOSES WANT TO STOP AT THE ZOO, TO DO THAT YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A STABLE SOURCE OF THAT DAY-TO-DAY EXPENSE. AND IF YOU'RE LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD AT A MAGIC DROP-DEAD DATE OF AN EXPIRATION OF A LAW AND YOU'RE SAYING, WELL, GEE, WE'RE GOING TO LOSE \$2 MILLION IN REVENUE DOWN THE ROAD FOUR OR FIVE YEARS FROM NOW, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BUILD THE ELEPHANT PALACE OR THE WHATEVER BECAUSE THERE WON'T BE THE OPERATING REVENUE TO FEED THE ELEPHANTS. SO INsofar AS THIS MONEY, I WOULD THINK, IS CONTRIBUTING TOWARD THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATING EXPENSES--THE FEEDING OF THE ELEPHANTS, NOT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ELEPHANT PALACE--IT'S NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN IT'S STABLE WITH NO CLIFF TO FALL OFF IN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS. AND I THINK IT PROBABLY IS WISE FINANCIAL POLICY TO SAY, LOOK, THIS IS A REVENUE STREAM. IF WE START IT, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE CUT OFF UNLESS WE GET IN SOME HECK OF A MESS WHICH WE'VE GOT TO REFORM SOMETHING. BUT IT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN RELY ON SO GO AHEAD MAKE YOUR LARGE, LARGE CORPORATE OR PERSONAL GIFT AND INVEST IN THE CAPITAL STRUCTURE BECAUSE THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATING EXPENSES ARE NOT GOING TO HIT A FISCAL CLIFF OF SOME NATURE BECAUSE OF AN ARBITRARY PERIOD OF TIME. NORMALLY, THE SUNSET CONCEPT IS GOOD. THIS IS NOT THE NORMAL THING. THE PUBLIC HAS CONTRIBUTED VERY LITTLE TO THAT INFRASTRUCTURE AND THAT FACILITY WHICH HAS BECOME SO WELL-KNOWN. AND IF WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS AT ALL, LET'S DO IT ON A STABLE WAY THAT PEOPLE CAN COUNT ON FOR OPERATING EXPENSES INTO THE FUTURE, AND HOPEFULLY THAT WILL CONTINUE TO ENTICE A VERY, VERY, VERY REMARKABLE PHILANTHROPY THAT HAS GONE ON TO CONSTRUCT THAT WORLD-RENOWNED FACILITY IN OMAHA. THANK YOU. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. SEEING NO ONE ELSE WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB419]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. IF THE ZOO HAD NOT BEEN OPERATING IN THE BLACK, I CAN SEE THE ARGUMENT THAT SENATOR SCHUMACHER WAS MAKING IN THAT IT SUDDENLY IS A CUT IN THEIR REVENUE. BUT SINCE THEY'RE OPERATING IN THE BLACK AND THEY HAVE A FAIRLY GOOD OPERATING STREAM, I DON'T THINK THAT THIS SHOULD PRESENT A PROBLEM. I DO UNDERSTAND WHEN SENATOR KRIST VISITED WITH ME ABOUT POLICY. I DID APPROACH THIS FROM KIND OF A STRANGE ANGLE IN MY COMPROMISE WITH SENATOR MELLO. IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH SENATOR MELLO, I REMEMBER SAYING WISHED HE WOULD HAVE COME IN FRONT OF THE APPROPRIATIONS WITH THIS AND WE COULD HAVE VOTED ON IT. SO IT IS KIND OF A UNIQUE COMPROMISE THAT WE REACHED. I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ALL THE REST OF THE BILL. I SUPPORT EVERYTHING IN IT EXCEPT THE EXEMPTION ON SALES TAX FROM THE ADMISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIP. SO IT'S JUST A SMALL PORTION WITH, I'M NOT REALLY OPPOSED TO THE BILL. I DIDN'T WANT TO GET UP AND BE OPPOSED TO THE BILL. I LIKE PARTS OF IT. I THINK IT'S GOOD BUSINESS SENSE. I THINK IT DOES HELP PROMOTE THE ZOO. IT DOES GIVE THEM SOME FUNDING AND CONTINUES TO ALLOW THEM TO OPERATE IN A GOOD, RESPONSIBLE MANNER, AS A BUSINESS SHOULD. SO I THINK, YOU KNOW, ALTHOUGH THE SUNSET PROVISION IS A LITTLE BIT UNIQUE TO THE SITUATION, I DON'T SEE THAT IT'S A DEAL KILLER AS FAR AS HOW WE LOOK AT THIS AMENDMENT. I STILL THINK IT'S A RESPONSIBLE AMENDMENT. IT ADDRESSES TAX POLICY. AND IT IS KIND OF A STRANGE THING TO GO ABOUT PUTTING A SUNSET ON THAT, BUT IT ACCOMPLISHES THE SAME THING. IT HELPS OUT THE ZOO. IT DOES GIVE THEM SOME REVENUE FOR SOME EXPANSION PROJECTS OR WHATEVER ELSE THEY HAVE IN MIND. THEY WILL KNOW APPROXIMATELY WHAT THAT REVENUE WILL BE. AND AT THE END, THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHEN IT WILL BE GONE. I THINK THAT DOES ALLOW STRATEGIC PLANNING TO HAPPEN. AND INCREASED REVENUE FROM MORE PEOPLE SEEING THE ZOO WILL BENEFIT US ALL. SO WITH THAT, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING TO AM1406. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT TO LB419. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB419]

CLERK: 36 AYES, 0 NAYS TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB419]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR KRIST: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. THOSE SENATORS AWAY FROM THE CHAMBER PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS NORDQUIST, STINNER, CHAMBERS, SENATOR GROENE, WOULD YOU CHECK IN, PLEASE. SENATOR KINTNER, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR COOK, WOULD YOU CHECK IN, PLEASE. THANK YOU, MA'AM. SENATORS NORDQUIST AND STINNER, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR FRIESEN, ALL MEMBERS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROCEED? [LB419]

SENATOR FRIESEN: MACHINE VOTE. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: WE'VE ALREADY HAD A MACHINE VOTE, SO YOU CAN DO CALL-INS OR A ROLL CALL. OKAY. THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST FOR ROLL CALL VOTE. IS THAT REGULAR ORDER, SIR? ROLL CALL VOTE REGULAR ORDER, MR. CLERK, PLEASE. [LB419]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1294-1295) 10 AYES, 35 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE AMENDMENT. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. THE AMENDMENT IS NOT ADOPTED. [LB419]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: RETURNING TO DEBATE, SENATOR GROENE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. RAISE THE CALL, PLEASE. [LB419]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I THOUGHT THERE WAS GOING TO BE ANOTHER AMENDMENT DROPPED. BUT ANYWAY, BACK TO THE POINT THAT THIS ISN'T A COMPETITION. NOBODY DOES NOT LIKE ZOOS. THE ZOOS ARE WONDERFUL THINGS. INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE WONDERFUL THINGS. BANKS ARE WONDERFUL THINGS. WATER PARKS ARE WONDERFUL THINGS. MOVIE THEATERS ARE WONDERFUL THINGS. BUT WE JUST CAN'T START PASSING OUT...PICKING WINNERS AND LOSERS, HOW WE GIVE TAX INCENTIVES OR WHY WE GIVE TAX INCENTIVES. THERE'S A REASON WE COLLECT TAXES. WE HAVE TO RUN A GOVERNMENT. AND WOULDN'T IT BE A LOT EASIER? WE COULD REALLY

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

GET DONE WITH THINGS IF WE START SAYING, HOW DO WE FOCUS ON EVERYBODY GETS A TAX CUT? EVERYBODY PAYS THEIR FAIR SHARE AND LOWER TAXES AND SPENDING FOR EVERYBODY. YOU KNOW, THE AVERAGE WORKING GUY, HE'S NOT DOWN HERE. HE'S NOT BEHIND THAT GLASS OUT THERE. HE'S PAYING PROPERTY TAXES. THE WIDOW LADY, THE RETIRED PERSON ON THEIR HOMES IN OMAHA, IN LINCOLN, IN NORTH PLATTE. THE FARMERS ARE PART OF IT TOO. THE BUSINESSES ARE PART OF IT TOO. WE HAVE A PROPERTY TAX PROBLEM, BUT WE MANAGE TO GET THESE KIND OF BILLS THROUGH COMMITTEE, AND WE CAN'T GET A GENERAL...AND I'M ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, SO I HAVE A PART OF THE PROBLEM TOO. BUT WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO FIX THAT THIS SUMMER AND HAVE A GOOD BILL NEXT YEAR, WITH SENATOR SULLIVAN'S LEADERSHIP, TO GIVE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. BUT IT'S JUST FRUSTRATING WHEN WE SEE THAT IF WE HAVE EXCESS FUNDS TO GIVE AWAY, TAX DOLLARS TO GIVE AWAY WITH NO RETURN, I MEAN, YOU CAN CLAIM WINDMILLS ARE GIVING AN ECONOMIC RETURN BUT YOU...THIS ONE THERE'S NO CLAIM TO THAT, THAT WE'RE GOING TO GET A RETURN ON THIS INVESTMENT. WE'RE JUST DOING IT BECAUSE WE FEEL...WE WANT TO REWARD AN INDUSTRY FOR DOING A GOOD JOB. I GUESS THAT'S GOOD POLICY, THAT'S GOOD POLICY. I DON'T SEE IT AS GOOD POLICY. BUT LET'S CONCENTRATE ON CONTROLLING SPENDING, SUPPOSED TO BE A LOT OF FISCAL CONSERVATIVES IN THIS BODY. I THINK WE CAN DO BETTER THAN 3.1 PERCENT. I THINK AT THE END OF THE DAY WE CAN BE ABOUT 2.5 PERCENT BECAUSE THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF ADD-ONS IN THAT BUDGET THAT WE MANAGED TO GET BY IN THIS STATE FOR WHATEVER THE HISTORY IS, A COUPLE HUNDRED YEARS. AND NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN WE NEED A NEW PROGRAM. BUT THIS IS...WE'RE MAKING A POINT HERE ABOUT TAX POLICY, I THINK, THOSE OF US THAT ARE TAKING THIS ISSUE ON. YOU KNOW, I HEARD AN INTERESTING COMMENT FROM ONE OF MY FRIENDS, A LITTLE MORE LEFT THAN I AM, WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT THE MINIMUM WAGE. AND I SAID, YOU KNOW, SOME OF THE SMALL BUSINESS IN SMALL TOWNS JUST CAN'T AFFORD THAT. HE SAYS, THEY CAN RAISE THE PRICES, JUST RAISE THE PRICES--I DON'T KNOW IF HE EVER RAN A LEMONADE STAND--BUT, JUST RAISE THE PRICES. WELL, THE ZOO CAN JUST RAISE THEIR PRICES. WHY CAN'T THE ZOO JUST RAISE THEIR PRICES? ISN'T THAT THE FREE MARKET SYSTEM? JUST RAISE YOUR PRICES. IF YOU NEED MORE MONEY TO OPERATE, RAISE YOUR PRICES. THAT'S HOW THE FREE MARKET WORKS. APPARENTLY ATTENDANCE IS UP. IT GROWS, RAISE YOUR PRICES. IF ATTENDANCE STARTS GOING DOWN THEN LOWER YOUR PRICES. THAT'S SIMPLE 101 ECONOMIC LESSON FOR YOU. I MEAN, IF THE SMALL BUSINESSMEN CAN DO IT WITH THE MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE, THE ZOO CAN DO IT. OR AM I GOT A DISCONNECT HERE? SO ANYWAY, WE NEED REVENUES. THE STATE NEEDS REVENUES TO OPERATE. WE'RE GIVING \$2.7

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

MILLION AWAY HERE--A LITTLE HERE, A LITTLE THERE. IT STARTS ADDING UP. THEN WE GET COMPETITIVE. THEN WE GET PEOPLE SAYING RURAL VERSUS URBAN, INSURANCE COMPANIES VERSUS RETAIL OUTLETS, PROPERTY VERSUS SALES TAX. CAN WE DO POLICY THAT WE DO IT FOR EVERYBODY? HOW HARD WOULD THAT BE? THEN THE LOBBYISTS, THEY COULD ALL GO HOME BECAUSE THEY WOULD SAY, WELL, I CAN'T INFLUENCE THIS SENATOR FOR MY LITTLE PROJECT. I CAN'T INFLUENCE... [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB419]

SENATOR GROENE: ...THAT ONE FOR THIS LITTLE PROJECT BECAUSE THEY'RE THINKING OF THE GREATER GOOD. THEY'RE LOOKING AT CONTROLLING SPENDING FOR THE ENTIRE STATE. THEY'RE LOOKING AT TAX POLICY FOR THE ENTIRE STATE. MAYBE I'M SIMPLE. SOME PEOPLE CLAIM I AM. BUT I ACTUALLY THINK WE COULD GO BACK TO THAT AND IT WOULDN'T TAKE THAT MUCH TO DO IT. INSTEAD OF ARGUING ABOUT, BY GOLLY, ZOOS ARE GREAT. THERE ISN'T ANYBODY IN THIS BODY THAT DOESN'T THINK ZOOS ARE NICE, DON'T THINK HENRY DOORLY ZOO IS PROUD OF IT. I MEAN, IT'S ON THE NEWS, THE BIGGEST ZOO IN THE COUNTRY...BEST ONE IN THE COUNTRY. BUT THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS IN THIS STATE THAT ARE GOOD, THAT DO WELL, THAT REPRESENTS THE STATE WELL. ALL RIGHT, WELL, LET'S GIVE THEM A TAX BREAK, TOO, BECAUSE WE GOT TO FEEL GOOD. LET'S HAVE A CHAMBER MEETING AND PASS OUT TAX BREAKS INSTEAD OF MEDALS. SO ANYWAY, TAX POLICY, THIS IS NOT GOOD TAX POLICY TO DIVIDE AND CONQUER AND PICK WINNERS AND LOSERS. AND THAT'S JUST WHERE I COME FROM. SO THANK YOU, AND WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB419]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, AS SENATOR GROENE WAS TALKING, I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING. THEY TOOK THEIR AXES TO PROPERTY TAXES, BUT THEN THEY BALKED AND TALKED AND TALKED AND TALKED. ANYWAY, I HAVE NEVER GONE TO THE HENRY DOORLY ZOO. I WILL NEVER GO THERE. I CAN'T STAND TO SEE ANIMALS IN CAGES. I CAN'T STAND TO SEE THEIR FREEDOM TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM. AND NO MATTER HOW NICE SOMEBODY WANTS TO MAKE IT, THINK OF YOURSELF AS IN A PRISON CAMP WHERE THEY'VE GOT GREEN TREES, GREEN GRASS, THEY EVEN CARE ABOUT DANDELIONS LIKE I DO. I'M PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO DOES, BECAUSE THEY HAD A

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CONFERENCE AND SENT A REPRESENTATIVE TO ME AND THEY SAID, SENATOR CHAMBERS, WE WERE TOLD TO TELL YOU ONE THING. I SAID, WHAT IS THAT? THE DANDELION SAID, LET US CAST A SHADOW, WE WANT TO EXIST ALSO. AND SO WHILE I WAS PUZZLING OVER THAT, THE LITTLE DANDELION LOOKED UP AND SAID, YOU KNOW, HUMAN BEINGS HAVE THAT EXPRESSION--BLONDS HAVE MORE FUN. WELL, IF YOU LOOK AT US, YOU'D SEE THAT WE'RE BLONDS, BUT WHEN PEOPLE WANT TO CUT YOU WITH SHARP BLADES, DIG YOU UP BY THE ROOTS, COVER YOU WITH TOXIC POISONOUS CHEMICALS, THAT'S NOT FUN EVEN FOR A BLOND. SO IF I CAN BE IN FAVOR OF LETTING DANDELIONS LIVE...AND SOMEBODY ONCE SAID THAT WEEDS ARE ONLY PLANTS WHOSE TRUE PURPOSE HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCOVERED. AND WHILE I'M DIGRESSING, AESOP, WHO WAS VERY WISE, WAS ASKED WHY DO WEEDS GROW NO MATTER WHAT THE CONDITIONS, BUT CULTIVATED PLANTS DIE EVEN WHEN GIVEN THE TENDEREST OF CARE? AESOP SAID, WEEDS ARE NATURE'S NATURAL CHILDREN. THOSE OTHER PLANTS ARE HER STEPCHILDREN. WHY I WON'T GO TO A ZOO I'VE ALREADY SAID, BUT THERE'S A SONG, SENATOR GROENE, IT SAID, I CAN'T LOOK AT HOBBLERS, AND I CAN'T STAND FENCES. BUT IF I WERE IN THE HOBBLING BUSINESS, I SHOULD BE WILLING TO WEAR THE HOBBLE MYSELF. IF I'M GOING TO BUILD A FENCE, I SHOULD BE WILLING TO BE FENCED IN. I WAS ASKED, IN VIEW OF MY POSITION, WHY I WOULD SUPPORT ANYTHING THAT WOULD HELP THESE ZOOS. I CANNOT GET RID OF THEM, SO WHATEVER MY CREATIVE SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE ANIMALS ARE TREATED WITH A BIT MORE HUMANENESS, I WILL SUPPORT THAT. IF I HAD MY WAY, WHICH I WON'T EVER, SO I WON'T EVEN GO INTO THAT, BUT I THINK THIS MONEY THAT IS BEING DISCUSSED IN TERMS OF, AS SOMEBODY SAID, A TAX BREAK OR DONATION IS MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING IN THE BROAD SWEEP OF THINGS. THE ONLY REASON I'M SPEAKING IS BECAUSE WITH THE LAST VOTE THAT WAS TAKEN, NOTHING THAT I WOULD SAY, ALONG THE LINES THAT I'VE ALREADY SPOKEN, WILL HURT THIS BILL. THERE ARE ENOUGH VOTES, IN MY VIEW, FOR IT TO BE PASSED, SO I THOUGHT I WOULD JUST PUT ON THE RECORD MY FEELING ABOUT ZOOS. BUT THE EXISTENCE OF A ZOO LED A MAN NAMED H.L. MENCKEN, WHO IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE HAD MORE IMPACT ON THE INTELLIGENTSIA OF HIS DAY THAN ANYBODY ELSE. AND BY THE WAY, HE WROTE FOR THE BALTIMORE SUN, AND HE WOULD HAVE SOME THINGS TO SAY IF HE WAS IN BALTIMORE RIGHT NOW. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB419]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WHICH I'M NOT GOING TO SAY. I DON'T TRUST MYSELF. BUT HE WAS ASKED, BECAUSE HE WAS SO CRITICAL, AND THIS IS WHAT I SAY TO

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

THOSE PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY'LL GIVE ME A ONE-WAY TICKET TO SOME PLACE; THEY ASKED MENCKEN, IF YOU FIND SO MUCH WRONG WITH AMERICA AND YOU CRITICIZE IT SO MUCH, WHY DO YOU STAY HERE? HE SAID, WHY DO MEN GO TO ZOOS? THANK YOU. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. MR. CLERK. SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB419]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT WE ADVANCE LB419 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB419]

SENATOR KRIST: YOU HAVE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. LB419 ADVANCES. AND, MR. CLERK. [LB419]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, THE NEXT BILL I HAVE, SELECT FILE, LB414, NO E&Rs. THE FIRST AMENDMENT I HAVE, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, AM1368. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1295.) [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. AM1368'S GENESIS IS WITH THE DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD'S RECENT RESISTANCE TO LB414 AND THE FISCAL COST TO DOUGLAS COUNTY. AND WHEN THEY ISSUED THEIR LETTER ON THAT, I BEGAN LOOKING AT THE BILL MORE CLOSELY AND TRYING TO PLACE IT IN THE CONTEXT OF SOME OF THE DISCUSSION WE HAD TODAY. PEOPLE IN NEBRASKA ARE, GENERALLY, PRETTY COMMONSENSE PEOPLE. AND THEY, PROBABLY, ARE NOT EXPECTING MIRACLES, AND THEY'RE JUST EXPECTING TO BE TREATED SOMEWHAT WITH COMMON SENSE. I THINK THE AG SECTOR REALIZES THAT IF THERE'S AN AG SECTOR PROPERTY TAX CUT, IT MEANS AN URBAN SECTOR PROPERTY TAX INCREASE. IF THERE'S A CROSS-THE-BOARD PROPERTY TAX CUT, IT MEANS SOMEBODY'S SALES TAX IS GOING TO GO UP OR SOMEBODY'S INCOME TAX HAS GOT TO GO UP. AND THEY RECOGNIZE THAT OUR INCOME TAXES ARE PROBABLY ON THE HIGH END OF NORMAL. AND THAT IF WE INCREASE SALES TAXES, WE ARE HAMMERING THE FOLKS WHO MAKE BETWEEN \$20,000 AND \$120,000 A YEAR. AND IF WE DIP INTO THE CASH RESERVE, THAT'S A ONE-TIME BITE AT THE APPLE AND THEN WE HAVE NO APPLE LEFT TO CHEW. SO IF THERE'S GOING TO BE TAX CUTS, THEY HAVE TO COME OUT OF SAVINGS AND THE LIST OF SUGGESTED AREAS TO CUT IN THE BUDGET IS RATHER SPARSE. SO YOU KNOW, WE ALL HAVE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

THIS GROWL IN OUR STOMACH ABOUT HOW BAD IT IS, BUT WE ALL KNOW WE'RE OARING THE SAME BOAT IN THIS. AND THAT'S WHY WHEN THE WOODMEN PROPOSAL CAME BEFORE US, I THINK IT STRIKES A SOUR CORE. AND THE WOODMEN BUILDING, UNQUESTIONABLY, HAS BEEN A SYMBOL OF OMAHA FOR A LONG, LONG TIME. IT'S ALSO BEEN A SYMBOL OF WEALTH. AND WHEN THE SOCIETY COMES IN AND SAYS THAT THEY WANT WHAT THE LANGUAGE OF LB414 SAYS THAT THEIR PROPERTY SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM ALL AND EVERY STATE, COUNTY, DISTRICT, MUNICIPAL, AND SCHOOL TAX, PEOPLE BEGIN TO GET REALLY GRUMPY AND THINK IT WOULD BE WRONG OF US TO CATER TO THAT. I LOOKED UP THE DEFINITION OF THE FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETY. IT'S AN INCORPORATED SOCIETY, ORDER, OR A SUPREME LODGE THAT DOESN'T HAVE STOCK, CONDUCTED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ITS MEMBERS AND THEIR BENEFICIARIES AND NOT FOR PROFIT, OPERATED ON A LODGE SYSTEM WITH RITUALISTIC FORMS OF WORK, HAVING A REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND WHICH PROVIDES CERTAIN INSURANCE-TYPE BENEFITS. SO I THEN LOOKED UP WHAT IS RITUALISTIC WORK. AND THAT'S PRETTY HARD TO FIND A DEFINITION FOR. THE CLOSEST THING I COULD FIND IS THE CHURCH LADIES GETTING TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT AND KNITTING WHILE PRAYING THE ROSARY. THAT'S KIND OF RITUALISTIC WORK. AND SO WITH THAT IN MIND, AM1368 WAS DRAFTED. THE INSURANCE BUSINESS ASIDE, THAT SHOULDN'T BE TAX EXEMPT, BUT IF THERE IS A SMALL PART OF A FRATERNAL SOCIETY'S PROPERTY THAT IS USED EXCLUSIVELY AS A LODGE BY ITS MEMBERS AND THEIR BENEFICIARIES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF RITUALISTIC FORMS OF WORK WHICH DON'T INURE TO THE INCREASING OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEIR REVENUES AND EXPENSES OR ENHANCING THEIR COMPENSATION OF THEIR OFFICERS, THEN I SUPPOSE THAT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK AN AWFUL LOT LIKE A CHARITY OR A CHURCH-TYPE OF SOCIETY, AND IT WOULD BE FAIR TO GIVE A VERY NARROW TAX BREAK TO THAT PARTICULAR PROPERTY. SO THAT'S AM1368. THAT PORTION OF THE BUILDING WHICH IS USED FOR GETTING TOGETHER AND DOING RITUALISTIC BEHAVIORS, I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT WOULD BE, MAYBE WHITTILING SOME WOOD INTO FIGURINES OR WHATEVER WOODMEN DO WHILE THEY SING OR CHANT, THAT'S FAIR GAME, JUST AS WE WOULD EXEMPT THAT THE CHURCH LADIES SOCIETY AND THEIR QUILTING IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT WHILE THEY PRAYED A ROSARY OR SANG SONGS. SO THAT'S THE AMENDMENT. IT CERTAINLY HAS A FISCAL IMPACT TO DOUGLAS COUNTY FAR, FAR LESS THAN THE OVER MILLION DOLLAR EXEMPTION THAT MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATED BY LB414 WITHOUT THE EXEMPTION. AND IT PROBABLY FEELS FAIRER TO NEBRASKANS. PROBABLY WON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH MONEY; TREATS THE SOCIETY LIKE OTHER COMPARABLE-TYPE ORGANIZATIONS. AND IT SAVES US FROM THE SPECTRA OF BEING LOOKED AT AS

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

GIVING A REAL SPECIAL DEAL TO A REAL SPECIAL ORGANIZATION AND NOT GIVING ANYTHING TO ORDINARY FOLKS. SO I'D ENCOURAGE YOUR CONSIDERATION OF AM1368 WHICH IS A VERY LIMITED EXEMPTION FOR THAT AREA OF THE BUILDING THAT IS TRULY USED FOR A LODGE, AND NOT FOR ANY PROFIT, AND OF WHICH THEY DO RITUALISTIC WORK IN. THAT'S THE NATURE OF A SOCIETY, AND AS FAR AS THE REST OF THE BUILDING THAT IS USED FOR COMMERCIAL INSURANCE PURPOSES, THE POLICYHOLDERS OF WHICH DON'T ATTEND ANY RITUALISTIC MEETINGS FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES ARE ORDINARY INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS THAT THAT BE TAXED JUST LIKE THE REST OF US HAVE TO PAY TAXES. THANK YOU. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. SPEAKER HADLEY, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT. [LB414]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YES, I'D LIKE TO MAKE JUST A...MR. PRESIDENT, JUST A COUPLE QUICK THINGS. ONE, I PLAN TO GO TO BETWEEN 6:00 AND 6:30 THIS EVENING. AND MUCH TO MY CHAGRIN, THERE WILL BE NO SUPPER. TOMORROW, WE WILL START WITH THE CONSENT AGENDA FIRST, AND THEN GO BACK, IF WE'RE NOT FINISHED WITH SELECT FILE TODAY, WE WILL GO BACK TO IT TOMORROW AFTER CONSENT AGENDA. WHEN WE GET THAT DONE, WE WILL GO BACK TO THE GENERAL FILE. MY PLAN IS TO WORK LATE TOMORROW NIGHT, UNLESS SOME MIRACLE HAPPENS AND WE GET A LOT OF THINGS DONE, AND THE SAME ON THURSDAY NIGHT. MONDAY WE WILL START THE EXPERIMENT WITH WORKING THROUGH THE NOON HOUR AND GETTING DONE BEFORE 7:00. SO I JUST WANTED TO MAKE THAT ANNOUNCEMENT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SPEAKER HADLEY. YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON AM1368. SENATOR BURKE HARR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I STAND OPPOSED TO AM1368. IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A POISON PILL. AND IT IS A TROJAN HORSE. IT DOESN'T DO WHAT WE WANT. THE FINE PEOPLE IN NEBRASKA UNDERSTAND THAT LIKE PROPERTIES SHOULD PAY LIKE TAXES. THAT'S WHY UNDER THE NEBRASKA CONSTITUTION, WE HAVE THE UNIFORMITY CLAUSE. IT SAYS: ALL PROPERTY SHALL OF LIKE KIND SHALL BE TAXED IN THE SAME MANNER. SO YOU HAVE ALL RESIDENTIAL IS TAXED AT ONE RATE. WE'RE GOING TO HEAR LATER THAT AG IS TAXED A DIFFERENT RATE. BUT IT'S ALL WITHIN THAT SECTOR THAT THEY'RE THE SAME AMOUNT, 65 PERCENT. THIS

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

WOULD CREATE AN EXEMPTION THAT SAYS, HEY, SOME FRATERNAL BENEFIT PROPERTY SHALL BE TAX EXEMPT AND SOME SHALL NOT. I THINK YOU HAVE A REAL UNIFORMITY ISSUE THERE, YET WASN'T ADDRESSED. HE DID ADDRESS THE FACT THAT THIS BILL, ALLEGEDLY, HAS A FISCAL NOTE OF \$1.2 MILLION, WHICH IS MADE UP. LOOK AT THE OFFICIAL FISCAL NOTE; IT'S \$800,000. THE ONLY THING THAT HAS CHANGED BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT IS THAT DOUGLAS COUNTY, WHO FOR SOME REASON, DID NOT OPPOSE THIS BILL PRIOR. HAD A CHANCE AT A PUBLIC HEARING; CHOSE NOT TO AVAIL THEMSELVES AT THAT POINT, HAVE NOW DECIDED THAT THEY DON'T LIKE THIS. WELL, WE COULD PROBABLY LOOK INTO WHAT THEIR MOTIVES ARE OR AREN'T. BUT LET'S PUT IT ON THE RECORD THAT THERE IS CURRENTLY A LAWSUIT PENDING WITH TERC. I ASSUME SINCE THEY DIDN'T MIND BEFORE AND NOW THEY DO THAT THAT LAWSUIT ISN'T GOING AS WELL. THAT'S JUST AN ASSUMPTION, BUT WHY WOULD THEY ALL OF A SUDDEN AFTER THEY HAD A CHANCE AT PUBLIC HEARING. THIS HAS BEEN...I INTRODUCED THIS BILL IN EARLY JANUARY. IT HAD A PUBLIC HEARING AND THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. AFTER IT CAME OUT OF COMMITTEE, THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. AFTER GENERAL FILE THEN THEY SAY, OH, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, THIS BILL HAS LEGS. WE HAVE TO TREAT LIKE PROPERTY ALIKE. AND THAT'S WHAT THIS AMENDMENT VIOLATES. WE CAN'T JUST WILLY-NILLY SAY, HEY, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE A GREAT GUY, TELL YOU WHAT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY PROPERTY TAX ON YOUR HOUSE. SENATOR HAAR, WELL, KEN HAAR LET'S JUST SAY IS NOT SUCH A GREAT GUY. NO, I'M KIDDING, BURKE HARR. AND WE SAY--BURKE, YOU HAVE TO PAY TAXES. YOU CAN'T DO THAT, YOU JUST CAN'T DO THAT. YOU HAVE TO TREAT LIKE PROPERTY ALIKE. AND THAT'S WHY I STAND OPPOSED TO AM1368. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON AM1368. [LB414]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. SENATOR HARR ALLUDES TO THE CONSTITUTION ABOUT EQUAL AND PROPORTIONAL. THIS LB414, IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM, CERTAINLY IS THAT. SOME INSURANCE COMPANIES SHOULD HAVE THEIR PROPERTY TAXED, SOME INSURANCE COMPANIES SHOULD BE EXEMPT BECAUSE THEY HAVE WORK THAT IS RITUALISTIC. SOME SKYSCRAPERS, IF THEY'RE OWNED BY A BANK SHOULD BE TAXED. SOME SKYSCRAPERS RIGHT NEXT TO THEM SHOULD NOT BE TAXED. WELL, AM1368 SAYS--LOOK, IF IT'S AN OFFICE BUILDING USED BY AN INSURANCE COMPANY, IT SHOULD BE TAXED, REGARDLESS OF WHAT IT CALLS

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

ITSELF OR WHETHER OR NOT IT DOES ANYTHING IN RITUALS. IF IT'S A SKYSCRAPER SITTING NEXT TO ANOTHER SKYSCRAPER, IT SHOULD BE TAXED EQUALLY AND PROPORTIONATELY. AND IF SOME OF IT IS USED FOR A LODGE FOR RITUALISTIC PURPOSES, THEN...AND IT LOOKS KIND OF LIKE MAYBE A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY OR SOMETHING OF THAT NATURE, FINE. THAT SMALL PORTION USED NOT FOR PROFIT, NOT TO GENERATE MILLION-DOLLAR SALARIES, FINE. TREAT IT LIKE A CHURCH AND DON'T...GIVE IT A LITTLE TAX EXEMPTION, BUT THAT'S IT. AND SO AM1368 IS A PROPOSAL TO THIS BODY TO SAY, FINE, TO THE EXTENT IT IS A RITUAL IN A RITUALISTIC ROOM, TREAT IT THAT WAY. BUT TO THE EXTENT IT'S AN INSURANCE COMPANY OR A SKYSCRAPER, TREAT IT THAT WAY. AND THAT'S THE GIST OF AM1368. I'D ASK YOUR SUPPORT FOR IT. THANK YOU. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON AM1368. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF AM1368 TO LB414. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. [LB414]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: I'D ASK FOR A CALL OF THE HOUSE. ROLL CALL IN REVERSE ORDER. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS: SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB414]

CLERK: 28 AYES, 0 NAYS TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. THOSE SENATORS OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR SULLIVAN, PLEASE CHECK IN. THANK YOU. SENATORS SCHEER, WATERMEIER, MELLO, PANSING BROOKS, HOWARD, BOLZ, McCOLLISTER. SENATOR KOLOWSKI, PLEASE CHECK IN. SENATOR FRIESEN, PLEASE CHECK IN. SENATOR GROENE, PLEASE CHECK IN. SENATOR KINTNER, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER, THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR DAVIS, PLEASE CHECK IN. THANK YOU. SENATOR BOLZ AND SENATOR KINTNER, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER, THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR SCHUMACHER SAID WE CAN PROCEED. MR. CLERK, ROLL CALL VOTE, REGULAR ORDER, PLEASE. [LB414]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CLERK: SENATOR, DID YOU ASK FOR REVERSE OR...REVERSE... [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: I'M SORRY. REVERSE ORDER. THANK YOU. [LB414]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1295-1296.) 13
AYES, 32 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE AMENDMENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: AM1368 IS NOT ADOPTED. RAISE THE CALL. MR. CLERK. [LB414]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR KOLTERMAN WOULD MOVE TO AMEND,
AM1071. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1296-1299.) [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR KOLTERMAN, GOOD AFTERNOON, YOU'RE
RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON,
COLLEAGUES. AM1071 IS A BILL AMENDMENT THAT WOULD LOWER THE AG
LAND VALUATIONS FROM 75 TO 65 PERCENT. WHEN THIS BILL, LB414, CAME TO
THE FLOOR ORIGINALLY, SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, WE TALKED ABOUT HOW MUCH
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF THIS WOULD HELP. AND IT'S IN A BILL THAT WILL HELP
KEEP WOODMEN OF THE WORLD HERE. I'M IN FAVOR OF LB414, BUT AT THE SAME
TIME THERE'S A CRISIS GOING ON IN NEBRASKA AND IT'S OVERTAXING OUR
LARGEST INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE. I KNOW MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD THESE
STATISTICS BEFORE BUT I WANT TO STATE THEM AGAIN. AG LAND VALUES AND
TAXES WENT UP BY 16.35 PERCENT IN 2014; 16.12 PERCENT IN 2013; 9.97 PERCENT
IN 2012; 10.64 PERCENT IN 2011; 10.53 PERCENT IN 2010; 10.34 PERCENT IN 2009; 8.84
PERCENT IN 2008. AND FROM ALL THAT I'M HEARING THEY'RE SCHEDULED TO
INCREASE AGAIN APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AMOUNT THIS YEAR AND NEXT
YEAR. IN 2012, NEBRASKA WAS THIRD IN THE COUNTRY IN TOTAL PROPERTY
TAXES PAID ON AG LANDS AT \$707 MILLION, ONLY BEHIND TEXAS AND
CALIFORNIA. I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT THAT. WE'RE THIRD BEHIND TEXAS
AND CALIFORNIA ON PROPERTY TAXES PAID ON AG LAND. OVER A TEN-YEAR
PERIOD, THE PERCENTAGE OF PROPERTY TAXES PAID BY THE AGRICULTURE
COMMUNITY INCREASED BY 10 PERCENT, WHILE ALL RESIDENTIAL AND
COMMERCIAL DECREASED OVER THAT SAME PERIOD OF TIME. NOW I KNOW
LOWERING AG LAND VALUATION FROM 75 PERCENT TO 65 PERCENT IS NOT THE
TOTAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE IN OUR STATE WHEN IT
COMES TO PROPERTY TAXES. BUT IT COULD BE A START. IT'S A START THAT THE
PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA HAVE ASKED US TO TALK ABOUT. COLLEAGUES, IF WE'RE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

WILLING TO GIVE TAX RELIEF TO AN ORGANIZATION THAT EMPLOYEES 500 PEOPLE IN FEAR THAT THEY WILL LEAVE THIS STATE, SHOULDN'T WE ALSO GIVE TAX RELIEF TO AN INDUSTRY THAT EMPLOYS OVER 20 PERCENT OF NEBRASKANS? I BRING THIS PRIMARILY FOR DISCUSSION TODAY TO START THE DISCUSSION. WE CAN'T SOLVE THIS PROBLEM TODAY, BUT WE CAN START TALKING ABOUT IT. PROPERTY TAXES DESERVE A CONVERSATION. THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY SENATOR GLOOR, HAS DONE A WONDERFUL JOB IN TALKING ABOUT THIS, AND THERE'S SENATORS THAT HAVE VARIED OPINIONS ABOUT THIS. THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE HAS DONE A WONDERFUL JOB OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS UNDER SENATOR HADLEY'S REGIME AND THEY'VE DONE SOME THINGS AS WELL, BUT WE HAVE NOT TALKED ABOUT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. AM1071 DOES NOT TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM WE HAVE IN THE STATE AS TO HOW DO WE FUND EDUCATION. I RECEIVED A CALL...OR AN E-MAIL FROM ONE OF MY SUPERINTENDENTS JUST BEFORE NOON TODAY BECAUSE THEY SAW THAT I'D ADDED THIS AMENDMENT. AND THEY SAID IT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING FOR US, IN FACT, IT'S GOING TO HURT US EVEN WORSE. I'M VERY MUCH AWARE OF THAT. EDUCATION IS A PROBLEM AS HOW WE FUND IT. CAN WE CONTINUE TO FUND IT JUST BY SAYING WE'RE GOING TO INCREASE OR DECREASE THE VALUATION? WE'RE GOING TO INCREASE THE TAX CALL. WE CAN'T DO THAT ANY LONGER. SO WE HAVE TO START A LONG-TERM DIALOGUE, AND I'M HOPING THAT WE CAN START DOING SOMETHING THIS SUMMER AND COME BACK NEXT YEAR AND ADDRESS THE PROPERTY TAX ISSUE. BUT I'D LIKE TO HEAR SOME DISCUSSION ON THIS TODAY. I HAVE TALKED TO SENATOR HARR ABOUT THIS. HE KNEW THAT THIS AMENDMENT WAS COMING. I'M NOT HERE TO SABOTAGE HIS BILL. I SAID THAT EARLIER. I THINK WE SHOULD SUPPORT LB414, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO START THE DIALOGUE. THANK YOU.
[LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR KOLTERMAN. YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON AM1071. THOSE WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATORS GLOOR, FRIESEN, SCHNOOR, BRASCH, BLOOMFIELD, AND OTHERS. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON AGAIN, MEMBERS. I RISE IN OPPOSITION TO AM1071 AND LB414. IT MAY BE AN INTERESTING COMBINATION FOR THOSE WHO SPEAK ON THIS AMENDMENT. BUT LET ME USE THIS, AND I APPRECIATE SENATOR KOLTERMAN PUTTING AM1071 OUT FOR A BIT OF A DISCUSSION, I'LL USE IT AN AS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ALSO. I WOULD RISE IN OPPOSITION TO AM1071. AS CHAIR OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, BECAUSE THIS AMENDMENT IS VERY MUCH LIKE TWO BILLS THAT

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

ARE IN THE COMMITTEE, LB350 AND LB293, WHICH WOULD SEEK TO CHANGE PROPERTY TAX VALUATION FOR AG LAND. AND MEMBERS, THIS WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE DONE IN RARE, RARE, RARE INSTANCES. WE COUNT ON OUR COMMITTEES TO VET BILLS, HOLD HEARINGS, DISCUSS, TAKE VOTES, BE THE POINT OF THE SPEAR WHEN IT COMES TO SOME OF THE DIFFICULT ISSUES, AND THEN BE SELECTIVE IN LETTING THOSE BILLS OUT FOR DEBATE. WE HAVE DONE THAT IN THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. AND AS HAS ALREADY BEEN POINTED OUT, THIS IS A DIFFICULT ISSUE. IT'S NOT A TAX CUT, IT'S A TAX SHIFT. MAY BE CORRECT...MAY NOT BE CORRECT IN THE EYES OF SOME, BUT IT'S CERTAINLY NOT A TAX CUT, IT IS A TAX SHIFT. AS SENATOR KOLTERMAN RIGHTLY POINTS OUTS, THE CHALLENGE WE HAVE HERE IS THE ISSUE OVERALL OF PROPERTY TAXES, AND THE DISPROPORTIONATE RELIANCE, AS TIME HAS GONE BY AND AS AG LAND VALUES HAVE INCREASED, OF COUNTING ON PROPERTY TAXES TO FUND OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. THERE IS A STUDY RESOLUTION THAT IS OUT OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE, JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS ISSUE. AND I KNOW SENATOR SULLIVAN, AS CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, HAS HER LIGHT PRESSED AND I THINK WE'LL VISIT A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THIS. BUT I WANTED TO POINT OUT THE DANGEROUS TERRITORY, THE THIN ICE WE'RE ON IF WE START PULLING...THROWING AMENDMENTS ON THAT ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A REPLICATION OF BILLS THAT ARE IN COMMITTEE. THERE WILL BE AN ENTICEMENT TO DO SO. THERE WILL BE INTEREST GROUPS WHO PUSH US TO DO SO, AS WE GET INTO CRUNCH TIME. BUT TRUST ME, WE DON'T WANT TO GO THERE. WHY DO WE SPEND OUR AFTERNOONS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY AND MARCH IN HEARINGS IF ALL WE'RE GOING TO DO IS WAIT UNTIL WE GET INTO SERIOUS DEBATE AND JUMP OVER THAT WHOLE PROCESS TO THROW BILLS INTO THE FRAY WITHOUT THE APPROPRIATE VETTING THAT'S OUT THERE. SO AGAIN, I JUST OFFER THAT AS AN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY. I UNDERSTAND WHAT SENATOR KOLTERMAN IS DOING. HE'S BEEN ENTIRELY PROFESSIONAL AND SENATORIAL ABOUT HIS APPROACH TOWARDS THIS AMENDMENT AND TALKING TO ME AND OTHERS ABOUT IT, AND HE LOOKS GOOD WHEN HE TALKS TO US ABOUT IT. GOOD DRESSER, HAS GREAT TIES. I'VE ALWAYS APPRECIATED THAT. ANYWAY, AGAIN I RISE IN OPPOSITION TO AM1071. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB350 LB293 LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR. SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES, IT'S ONE OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES, I THINK, IN THE STATE.

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

EVERYONE, WHEN WE STARTED THIS YEAR, WE WERE TALKING ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES AND PRISON REFORM. AND WE MAY GET SOME OF THAT ACCOMPLISHED, WE MAY NOT. BUT THE PROPERTY TAX ISSUE, WHEN I TALK ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES, DEALS STRICTLY BASICALLY WITH FUNDING FOR EDUCATION. I WILL SAY IT AGAIN, I WILL KEEP SAYING IT, IT'S NOT WHAT THE COUNTY IS CHARGING ME FOR WHAT THEY SERVE...WHAT THEY PROVIDE FOR ME. IT'S NOT THE NRDs NECESSARILY, IT'S THE EDUCATION PORTION THAT IS SUBJECT TO PROPERTY TAXES TO PAY THAT WHEN WE PAY, I FORGET WHAT THE PERCENTAGE IS, BUT 3 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION PAYS THE MAJORITY OF THE PROPERTY TAX IN THE RURAL SCHOOLS. AND IT'S NO LONGER A FAIR AND EQUITABLE TAX. IT'S NOT DEPENDENT ON HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE OR HOW WEALTHY YOU ARE, YOU CAN BE IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS WE'RE GOING TO SEE COMMODITY PRICES DROP; WE'RE GOING TO SEE LAND PRICES DROP SOME, I HOPE NOT LIKE THE '80s. BUT WE'RE GOING TO SEE SOME SUFFERING AGAIN IN THE AG INDUSTRY AND WE ALWAYS DO THAT. WE GO THROUGH THESE CYCLES. AND SO WE'RE GOING TO HAVE PROPERTY TAXES GOING UP, LAND PRICES DROPPING, VALUATIONS RISING, AND OUR PROPERTY TAX BILL GETTING LARGER. AND, YES, WE ARE A MINORITY. WE CAN'T JUST PICK UP OUR LAND AND MOVE OUT OF STATE AND FARM SOMEWHERE ELSE. I STILL THINK NEBRASKA IS THE BEST PLACE TO BE, BUT I DON'T HAVE TO ENJOY PAYING THE PROPERTY TAXES AND I CAN WORK TO CHANGE IT. AND WHEN WE LOOK AT THE AMOUNTS THAT ARE PAID, YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU HAVE INPUT COSTS TO RAISE A CROP AND PROPERTY TAXES ARE IN THE TOP FIVE OF YOUR COST TO RAISE THAT CROP, WE'VE GOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THIS STATE. AND RIGHT NOW WE HAVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE AREA THAT ARE CHARGING RIGHT AT \$100 AN ACRE IN PROPERTY TAXES. AND THIS NEXT YEAR AND PROBABLY THE YEAR AFTER, WE ARE AT BEST GOING TO BE OPERATING AT BREAK EVEN, PROBABLY AT A LOSS. AND THOSE OF US THAT HAVE FARMED A LONG TIME, WE KNOW THAT. WE EXPECT THAT, AND IT'S BUILT INTO OUR BUDGET. IT'S THE YOUNGER GUYS THAT ARE STARTING OUT THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN THROUGH THIS. WE'VE HAD PROBABLY FIVE OR SIX, SEVEN YEARS OF UNPRECEDENTED GOOD TIMES. THEY'VE HAD SOME GOOD TIMES, BUT STARTING OUT IS DIFFICULT. SO THEY'RE GOING TO GET HIT THE WORST IF THEY'VE HAD THE ABILITY TO PURCHASE ANY LAND AT THE HIGH PRICES. SOME OF THEM THAT STARTED FARMING EARLIER IN THEIR CAREER DID HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUY LAND AT REASONABLE PRICES AND NOW THEY'RE GOING TO SEE A PROPERTY TAX BILL THAT IS ONE OF THEIR LARGEST INPUT COSTS FOR RAISING A CROP AND THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN DO TO CONTROL IT. THEY COULD BE FARMING IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT WHERE THEY DON'T LIVE. THEY DON'T HAVE A VOTE IN WHETHER OR NOT THAT SCHOOL DISTRICT DECIDES TO

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

BUILD A NEW BUILDING, ADD ONTO THEIR FACILITIES, THEY HAVE NO SAY IN IT, BUT THEY HAVE TO PAY THE BILL. TO ME, WE NEED TO MOVE FUNDING OF EDUCATION AWAY FROM PROPERTY TAXES. WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE SOME OF IT ON THE PROPERTY TAX BILL, WHICH I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH. BUT THE MAJORITY NOW WHEN 65 PERCENT OF MY PROPERTY TAX BILL GOES TO EDUCATION, THAT FORMULA IS NOT WORKING. AND THE TEEOSA FORMULA, WHEN IT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED, I THINK, PROBABLY WAS WORKING CORRECTLY. BUT OVER THE YEARS, IT NEEDED TO BE ADJUSTED MORE OFTEN THAN THE LEGISLATURE WAS WILLING TO ADJUST IT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THERE WAS ALWAYS UNKNOWN CONSEQUENCES WHENEVER THEY TOUCHED SOMETHING; THERE WERE WINNERS AND LOSERS AND A LOT OF TIMES BY LARGE AMOUNTS. IT WAS HARD BEING ON A SCHOOL BOARD BEING ABLE TO PLAN BUDGETS. SO I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY TAXES. I THINK IT'S AN ISSUE WE NEED TO BE VERY THOUGHTFUL ABOUT BECAUSE NO ONE IN THE LAST 40 YEARS HAS BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU, SIR. I WAS GLAD TO SEE SENATOR KOLTERMAN PRESENTED THIS BILL...OR EXCUSE ME, THIS AMENDMENT. THERE IS ONE FLOATING AROUND IN THE REVENUE COMMITTEE RIGHT NOW, SENATOR GLOOR'S COMMITTEE, LB350 WHICH IS LYDIA BRASCH'S BILL. I ALSO HAD ONE, LB293. AND IS THIS THE ANSWER TO THE PROPERTY TAXES AS EVERYBODY HAS SAID? NO. THERE'S A MUCH BIGGER ISSUE. BUT I LOOK AT IT AS IT IS A START; SO IT'S GREAT DISCUSSION. IT'S ONE OF THESE THINGS WE TALKED ABOUT GIVING TAX BREAKS TO A LOT OF FOLKS. SO LET'S GIVE IT TO THE NUMBER ONE INDUSTRY IN OUR STATE, AND LET'S REDUCE IT FROM 75 TO 65. SO I THINK IT'S WORTH, SERIOUSLY, THINKING ABOUT. I'D ALSO LIKE TO SEE IF LB350 WAS BROUGHT OUT HERE FOR US TO DISCUSS. THIS WOULD BE A NON-ISSUE RIGHT NOW. SO THIS SUMMER I BELIEVE AN INTERIM...I BELIEVE THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE IS GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT THIS. HOW CAN WE...WE'RE GOING TO RELOOK AT THE OVERALL PROCESS OF EDUCATION, OF TAXATION, BECAUSE IT IS A HUGE PART OF OUR BUDGET. SO LET'S CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THIS 75 TO 65 PERCENT. THERE'S EVEN MANY FARMERS AGREE THAT THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

ANSWER. BUT LIKE I SAID FROM THE BEGINNING, IT'S SOMETHING. IT'S SOMETHING TO REDUCE THE BURDEN FOR THE FARMERS. IT'S SOMETHING TO MAKE THINGS A LITTLE MORE EQUAL FOR EVERYBODY THAT'S OUT THERE. LIKE SOMEBODY POINTED OUT, WHEN YOU HAVE THIS WOODMEN OF THE WORLD BUILDING, AN ORGANIZATION EMPLOYS MAYBE 500 PEOPLE, WE'RE GOING TO...TALKING ABOUT GIVING THEM A TAX BREAK AND MAKING IT EQUAL FOR ALL OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS, THOSE FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS, THAT'S GOOD. LET'S REDUCE IT AS WELL FOR OUR LARGEST INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. SO THAT IS ALL I HAVE. THANK YOU, SIR. [LB350 LB293 LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND I WANT TO THANK SENATOR SCHNOOR FOR HIS COMMENTS. AND I DID WANT TO SAY THAT SENATOR HADLEY, WHEN HE WAS...BEEN THE CHAIR OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, NOW SPEAKER, DID A PHENOMENAL JOB WITH THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE. IT WAS NOT EASY TO BRING ALL OF THE INPUT WE HAD FORWARD. THERE WERE PUBLIC HEARINGS ACROSS THE STATE. THERE WERE PUBLIC HEARINGS IN THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. THERE WERE TAX EXPERTS, EXPERT...INDEPENDENT STUDY INDIVIDUALS BROUGHT IN FOR THEIR SCIENTIFIC, NUMBER-CRUNCHING RESPONSE. A WONDERFUL REPORT WAS PUT TOGETHER WITH RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THEN RESULTS WERE REPORTED. AND YES, THERE WAS VARIOUS FORMS OF RELIEF BROUGHT FORWARD, THANKS TO THE YEOMEN'S WORK OF THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE AND, THEN, SENATOR HADLEY, NOW CHAIR. I ALSO GIVE A SHOUT-OUT TO SENATOR GLOOR. IT'S NOT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO GO TO THE HELM HERE AND TRY TO CONTINUE SAILING THIS SHIP FORWARD AS WE HAVE 18 NEW COLLEAGUES, WHO DO NOT HAVE THE INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND BACKGROUND, BUT THE REPORT DID LEAVE TWO ACTION ITEMS, THE TOP OF THE LIST WAS EDUCATION FUNDING AND THE SECOND ITEM WAS TO BRING DOWN PROPERTY TAX, SPECIFICALLY, AND IT WAS AG LAND VALUES. THAT WAS MENTIONED TWICE. EVEN THOUGH SENATOR SCHNOOR HAD CALLED IT "MY BILL", IT'S NOT "MY" BILL. IT IS THE PEOPLE'S BILL. IT IS NUMEROUS TOWN HALL MEETINGS; IT IS TOWN HALL MEETINGS, NOT ONLY DID I HAVE, BUT MANY OF YOU HELD ACROSS THE ENTIRE STATE LOOKING FOR RELIEF. THEY DIDN'T WANT THE ANSWER. WE ARE WORKING ON AN ANSWER. AND AS THE REVENUE REPORT CAME OUT, WAS IT LAST WEEK? THAT I BELIEVE IT WAS ON FRIDAY, THAT AG LAND VALUES ACROSS THE STATE, ON AVERAGE, WENT UP 19-PLUS PERCENT. SO A 10 PERCENT DROP WOULD NOT STALL BUSINESSES OR EDUCATION...OR THE BUSINESS OF

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

EDUCATION. WHAT I TRIED TO DO IS WORK WITH THE...I HAVE TWO COLLEAGUES THAT ARE BOTH RURAL SENATORS THAT, MAYBE THREE HERE, THAT I WOULD LIKE TO CONVINCED YET, I NEED A VOTE TO GET IT OUT OF COMMITTEE. AND WHAT I WANTED TO DO IS TO PROVIDE SOME EDUCATION FOUNDATION RELIEF. FROM THE FISCAL OFFICE, THE REPORT SAID THAT CLASS A SCHOOLS WON'T BE AFFECTED, MORE THAN LIKELY. OPS HAS A COMMON LEVY. CLASS B AND C, SOME WILL STAY THE SAME, SOME WILL GET MORE FUNDING THAN BEFORE. IT'S THE CLASS D SCHOOLS THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT. AND WITH THAT, I PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT THAT WOULD GIVE \$500 PER STUDENT, BRING THEM OUT OF A NEGATIVE LACK OF FUNDING ATMOSPHERE. AND AT THAT POINT, IT STALLED IN COMMITTEE. TO BE PERFECTLY CLEAR AND ON RECORD, THERE WAS MUCH WORK DONE BY THE PAST LEGISLATURE AND THE COMMITTEE, THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE. BUT WE HAD TWO ACTION ITEMS. IT WAS SAID ON THIS FLOOR, CLOSE TO ADJOURNMENT, AND WE COULD PULL THE RECORDS THAT NEXT WILL BE AG LAND VALUES AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR BRASCH: WE HAVE HEARD IT SAID OVER AND OVER, NOT JUST THESE LAST FOUR YEARS, BUT 40 YEARS OF A GROWING PROPERTY TAX PROBLEM WHERE TAXES HAVE SHIFTED TO BEING BURDENSOME FOR AG-LAND OWNERS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING, COLLEAGUES. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATORS BLOOMFIELD, GROENE, SULLIVAN, CHAMBERS AND OTHERS. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES. I KNOW SOME OF YOU ARE TIRED HEARING ABOUT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN. BUT IT IS A REAL ISSUE TO ANYONE THAT OWES PROPERTY TAX. I HAVE IN MY DRAWER HERE, AND I THINK I MENTIONED THIS BEFORE, ANYBODY THAT WANTS TO LOOK AT IT, THE PROPERTY TAX ON THE PLACE WE LIVE ON FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS IS TRIPLED IN 10 YEARS. COLLEAGUES, I DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER WAY TO TRY TO DESCRIBE WHAT THIS DOES TO FARMERS. BUT IF YOU HAD A \$100,000 SITTING IN THE BANK IN A CD, YOU PAY TAXES ON THE MONEY YOU MAKE ON THAT. THEY DON'T GO BACK AND TAX THE PRINCIPAL OVER AND OVER AGAIN EVERY YEAR.

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

YET THAT'S WHAT WE DO ON PROPERTY TAX. IF YOU OWN A FARM, YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF SELLING THE FARM, JUST LIKE YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF CASHING YOUR CD IN UNTIL YOU REACH RETIREMENT, BUT EVERY YEAR THE AMOUNT WE PAY ON THAT INCREASES. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU MAKE ANY MONEY ON THE FARMING OPERATION OR NOT, THAT TAX GOES UP. IN 2012, IN THE MIDST OF THE DROUGHT, THE PROPERTY TAX WENT UP. WE PRODUCED ABOUT 30 BUSHEL AN ACRE OF CORN. PROPERTY TAX WENT UP. THE PRICE IN THE LAST THREE YEARS HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF. THE PROPERTY TAX GOES UP. AT SOME POINT, COLLEAGUES, WE REACH THE POINT OF NO RETURN. EVERYBODY KNOWS THE MONEY FROM PROPERTY TAX GOES, PRIMARILY, TO EDUCATION. I HEAR CONTINUALLY FROM MY CONSTITUENTS THAT WE CAN'T JUST KEEP THROWING MONEY AT EDUCATION. EDUCATION IS VITAL, BUT IT NEEDS TO ALSO BE EFFICIENT. THROWING MORE MONEY AT IT CONTINUALLY IS NOT THE ANSWER. GROWING THE PROPERTY TAX YEAR AFTER YEAR DESPITE WHAT THE PROPERTY MAY OR MAY NOT PRODUCE, IS NOT THE ANSWER. WE HAVE TO HAVE AN INTELLIGENT DISCUSSION. THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE, I THOUGHT, HAD DONE THAT. IT WENT AROUND THE STATE. I SAT IN ON A COUPLE OF THOSE MEETINGS AND EVERYWHERE THEY WENT, THEY SAID WE HAVE TO CUT PROPERTY TAX SOMEHOW. THAT MESSAGE CAME LOUD AND CLEAR TO THIS LEGISLATIVE BODY AND WE HAVE, FOR THE MOST PART, IGNORED IT. SO HOPEFULLY AGAIN THIS SESSION, OR THIS INTERIM, WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER STUDY, GOD FORBID WE SHOULD EVER RUN OUT OF STUDIES, TO STUDY THE PROPERTY TAX ISSUE WHEN THE PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY TOLD US WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. BUT WE HAVEN'T. AND I REACHED THE POINT WHERE I'M FAIRLY SUSPICIOUS THAT WE WON'T. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR GROENE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I APPLAUD SENATOR KOLTERMAN AND SENATOR BRASCH FOR PUTTING THIS ON THE FLOOR. THIS DEBATE NEEDED TO BE ON THE FLOOR ABOUT AG LAND VALUATIONS AND PROPERTY TAXES. AND IT MIGHT NOT PASS, BUT AT LEAST WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A DEBATE ON IT. IT NEEDS TO BE BEAT INTO ALL OUR HEADS THAT WE HAVE A PROPERTY TAX PROBLEM. I DON'T AGREE WITH SENATOR BRASCH'S METHOD ON THE 75 TO 65, BUT I'M 100 PERCENT BEHIND HER MESSAGE. YOU KNOW IN OMAHA, IN OPS, OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 8 PERCENT OF THEIR VALUATION IS OFF THE BOOKS BECAUSE OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCING. IF YOU ARE GOING TO GIVE 8 PERCENT AWAY BECAUSE OF YOUR REASONING IN THE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

URBAN AREAS, NORTH PLATTE HAS THE SAME PROBLEM, TIF IS ABUSED, THEN MAYBE FARMERS OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO TAKE ANOTHER 10 PERCENT OFF THEIR VALUATIONS FOR THEIR REASONS, FOR THEIR ECONOMIC REASONS. DOUGLAS COUNTY--4.3 PERCENT IS OFF THEIR TAX ROLLS BECAUSE OF TIF. NOW HERE WE WANT ANOTHER \$1.2 MILLION FOR SPECIAL INTEREST FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION BECAUSE THEY MIGHT LEAVE. IT HAS GOT TO STOP. THESE PICKING WINNERS AND LOSERS AND GIVING TAX...YOU KNOW, THERE IS A REASON WE PAY PROPERTY TAXES, FOLKS. WE WANT GOOD SCHOOLS; WE WANT GOOD COUNTY ROADS; WE WANT GOOD WATER MANAGEMENT WITH OUR NRDs. SO WHEN WE GIVE, WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT THOSE FOLKS WHO DON'T WANT TO PAY IT? THEY DON'T WANT TO SUPPORT THEIR SCHOOLS. NOW I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE FARMERS. THE FARMERS...OH, FOR INDIVIDUALS, THEY ARE THE BIGGEST SUPPORTERS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE STATE, THE AMOUNT OF TAXES THEY PAY. YOU KNOW, A FARMER'S LAND IS HIS INPUT. THAT'S HOW HE MAKES A LIVING. IF HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT LAND, HE IS MAKING \$9 OR \$8 MINIMUM WAGE DOWN AT THE ELEVATOR. AND PEOPLE SAY, WELL, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO PAY THAT MUCH. WELL, I TALKED TO A YOUNG LAWYER THE OTHER DAY, HE'S GOT \$200,000 IN STUDENT LOANS. WELL, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO PAY THAT. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO PAY THAT, BUT HE DID. AND WHY DID HE DO IT? BECAUSE HE KNEW THERE WAS A RETURN, RETURN ON HIS INVESTMENT. SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? THAT JD DEGREE, THAT Ph.D. IN EDUCATION THAT OUR SUPERINTENDENTS AND PRINCIPALS HAVE, SHOULD WE START TAXING THAT? THAT'S AN INPUT. I MEAN, THAT'S ABSURD, BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO THE FARMER. AND I'LL REMIND YOU, YOU DO NOT PAY TAXES IN VALUATIONS; YOU DO NOT PAY TAXES IN LEVIES; YOU PAY THEM IN DOLLARS. AND WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE RURAL AREAS IS THAT IT HAS GOTTEN WAY OUT OF LINE. BECAUSE ONE GUY COMES IN, AN INVESTOR, COMES INTO THE AREA FROM OUT OF STATE AND HE BUYS SOME LAND, HE DRIVES UP THE PRICE. EVERYBODY'S VALUATION GOES UP. EVEN THE FARMER WHO HAS GOT SOME COMMON SENSE AND HE WOULD HAVE NEVER PAID THAT MUCH FOR LAND, BUT HE'S PAYING THAT PROPERTY TAXES BECAUSE ONE INVESTOR CAME INTO THE AREA. BUT YOU BLAME ALL THE FARMERS. I HEARD ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES SAY, WELL, THEY ARE ONLY PAYING 60 MILLS ON THEIR LAND OUT THERE. THEY DON'T GET ANY STATE AID. I WILL REMIND HIM, WE DO NOT PAY OUR PROPERTY TAXES IN LEVIES, WE PAY THEM IN DOLLARS. AND IT IS WAY OUT OF LINE, WAY OUT OF LINE. THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS, FARMING WILL NOT MAKE A NET PROFIT. THERE IS NO WAY. THE BANKERS ARE ALREADY SAYING THE CASH FLOW ISN'T THERE. BUT THEY HAVE LAND PAYMENTS, THEY HAVE \$80, \$100 TAXES PER ACRE ON PROPERTY TAXES. THAT DOESN'T GO AWAY. THIS DEBATE NEEDS TO BE HELD. WE NEED TO LOOK AT PROPERTY TAXES AND IT

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CAN'T BE AG AGAINST THE HOMEOWNER AGAINST THE BUSINESSMAN. WHEN I KNOCKED ON DOORS AND GOT ELECTED, I GOT ELECTED BY THE UNION MEMBERS AT THE RAILROAD. I GOT ELECTED BY SCHOOL TEACHERS. I GOT ELECTED BECAUSE I SAID PROPERTY TAXES WAS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM WE HAD AND THEY AGREED. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR GROENE: PEOPLE ARE LEAVING THE COMMUNITY AND THE RETIREES AND THEY ARE LEAVING, THEY CAN'T AFFORD THE PROPERTY TAXES. THEY ARE GETTING OUT OF LINE. AND WHEN WE... YOU START TELLING ME THAT I'M GOING TO GIVE \$1.2 MILLION TO SOME FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION LIKE IT IS CANDY TO GIVE AWAY, AND PEOPLE ARE HURTING FOR PROPERTY TAXES STATEWIDE, I GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT. I GOT A REAL PROBLEM WITH THAT. WE GOT TO FIX STATE AID TO EDUCATION. IT IS 70 PERCENT OF THE PROPERTY TAXES. AND QUIT USING VALUATIONS AND MILL LEVIES AND COMPARING THAT. LET'S LOOK AT HOW MANY DOLLARS WE PAY IN TAXES. THAT'S WHAT THE ISSUE IS. SEVENTY PERCENT INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES TO EDUCATION IN THE LAST TEN YEARS, THAT'S HOW MANY DOLLARS MORE WE HAVE INCREASED IT. FORTY-SEVEN PERCENT IN STATE AID TO EDUCATION, TEEOSA. STUDENTS HAVE ONLY GONE UP 6 PERCENT. MAYBE IT IS TIME THE TAXPAYERS START LOOKING AT THE EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENT AND SAYS, WE WANT RESULTS; WE ARE TIRED OF YOUR HANDOUT, WE WANT RESULTS. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB414]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR SULLIVAN, CHAMBERS, KOLTERMAN, DAVIS, MURANTE, BRASCH, AND HUGHES. SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND GOOD AFTERNOON, MOVING TOWARD EVENING, COLLEAGUES. YOU CAN TELL THAT THIS A VERY PASSIONATE ISSUE WITH SOME OF THE SENATORS. AND I CERTAINLY DO APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT SENATOR KOLTERMAN BROUGHT THIS AMENDMENT SO WE CAN START THIS DISCUSSION. UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT, BUT I TRULY DO SHARE HIS CONCERN. AND I HEAR IT ALMOST DAILY FROM FARMERS AND RANCHERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

DISTRICT 41. AND I'M COMMITTED TO IT, AS WELL, AS CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. AND TRULY, THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED THAT CONCERN, BECAUSE THAT WAS ONE OF ITS FIRST RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO DEALING WITH PROPERTY TAXES IN ITS REPORT--TO INCREASE THE STATE AID COMMITMENT TO SCHOOLS TO OFFSET PROPERTY TAX USE AND REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES AS A SHARE OF TOTAL STATE AND LOCAL TAXES. THAT CAME RIGHT OUT OF THE 2013 REPORT FROM THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE. I HEAR SOME ISSUES HEARD THIS MORNING FROM A SENATOR SAYING THAT THE SCHOOL AID FORMULA IS BROKEN. I ALSO HEAR FROM OTHERS THAT SAY IT IS FINE JUST THE WAY IT IS. WE AREN'T GOING TO DEAL WITH IT IN THIS STUDY. FIRST ACCEPT THE FACT THAT FUNDING SCHOOLS IN THIS STATE AND PROPERTY TAXES ARE INEXTRICABLY INTERTWINED. THEY ARE CONNECTED. WE HAVE TO LOOK AT BOTH OF THEM. AND I WILL GUARANTEE YOU THAT IF THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION, LR201, TO CREATE THE SCHOOL FINANCE MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE COMES TO THE FLOOR, AND HOPEFULLY RECEIVES YOUR GREEN VOTE, THAT IS WHAT WE WILL DO. YOU CAN GO TO YOUR GADGET RIGHT NOW AND LOOK AT THE RESOLUTION AS IT HAS BEEN FILED. WE ARE HAVING OUR HEARING BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON FRIDAY MORNING AT 8:00. AND HOPEFULLY THEY ARE LISTENING TO THIS...THESE COMMENTS AS WELL AND WILL ACT FAVORABLY SO THAT IT WILL COME HERE FOR ONE ROUND OF DEBATE ON THE FLOOR. JUST TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE BIT OF A BRIEFING ON WHAT IT INCLUDES, IT INCLUDES NOT ONLY THE FULL EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND THE FULL REVENUE COMMITTEE, BUT ALSO THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, THE SPEAKER, AND ALSO THE CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE. I THINK AS SENATOR GLOOR SAID, WE DON'T INTEND TO TRAVERSE THE STATE; WE ALREADY DID THAT BOTH THROUGH THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. WE HEARD, AS HAS BEEN SAID THIS AFTERNOON, WE HAVE HEARD THE MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR FROM CITIZENS THAT SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE. SO OUR QUEST WILL BE HOW TO FIGURE IT OUT. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN THIS GROUP IS TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF A FACILITATOR, BECAUSE WHETHER OR NOT YOU REALIZE IT RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE VAST DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON HOW WE SHOULD APPROACH THIS AND SOLVE THIS DILEMMA. SO THE FACILITATOR WILL HELP GUIDE THE DISCUSSION. BUT WE ARE ALSO GOING TO LOOK AT WHAT OTHER STATES ARE DOING. WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THE LITERATURE TO SEE THAT ARE THERE DIFFERENT APPROACHES? WE ARE ALSO GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HEAR FROM THE STATE AGENCY INVOLVED--THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. ALL OF THIS, I HOPE, WILL LEAD US ON A QUEST TO LOOK AT IT FAIRLY, TO LOOK AT IT IN-DEPTH, AND TO COME UP WITH SOME

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SOLUTIONS THAT THE MAJORITY OF US CAN BUY INTO. IS THIS GOING TO BE AN EASY PROCESS? NOT BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION. BUT IT TRULY IS A CONVERSATION, AN ACTION THAT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN. YES, I WAS ONE OF THE RURAL SENATORS ON THE REVENUE COMMITTEE THAT SAID TO SENATOR BRASCH--I JUST CAN'T SUPPORT THE DROPPING DOWN TO 65 CENTS FOR VALUATION OF TAX AG LAND. [LR201 LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I KNEW THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM THAT MIGHT RESULT. A TAXPAYER THOUGHT PERHAPS HE WAS GOING TO...HE OR SHE WAS GOING TO SEE A REDUCTION IN THEIR PROPERTY TAXES, LOOKED AT THEIR PROPERTY TAX STATEMENT AND SAW NOT ONLY DID THEIR TAXES GO DOWN, BUT IN SOME OF THESE DISTRICTS THAT HAVE VERY LOW LEVIES AND WOULD LOSE THAT VALUE, THEN THE LEVY FOR SCHOOL FUNDING WOULD GO UP. SO IT WOULD ALMOST EXACERBATE THE PROBLEM. SO HERE WE ARE, THE POTENTIAL OF CREATING THE SCHOOL FINANCE MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE THAT WILL ANSWER SOME OF THESE CONCERNS AND QUESTS THAT YOU HAVE HEARD HERE. AND I HOPE I CAN HAVE YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SULLIVAN. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, WHEN PEOPLE WERE RUNNING FOR THIS OFFICE, THEY TALKED ABOUT THINGS THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND. THEY LISTENED TO ALL THE SLOGANS THAT COME FROM THOSE RIGHT-WING RADIO STATIONS, TELEVISION STATIONS, AND OTHER PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT--YOU SHOULDN'T DO THIS, YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT, NO GOVERNMENT SPENDING, NO TAXATION AND EVERYBODY IS HAPPY. AND THEY HAVE GOT A GOOD CUSHY JOB. PUTTING ALL THIS NONSENSE IN THE HEADS OF PEOPLE OUT HERE KNOWING THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC. IT IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. NO GOVERNMENT COULD FUNCTION IF THE NONSENSE THAT IS PUT OUT BY THESE RIGHT WINGERS WERE TO BE DONE. SO PEOPLE COME HERE AND THEY REPEAT IT. AND THEY DIG A HOLE FOR THEMSELVES BY GOING AROUND THEIR DISTRICT PROMISING THAT THEY ARE GOING TO DO SOMETHING ON PROPERTY TAXES. THEY CAN'T. THEY WON'T. AND THEY OUGHT TO JUST TELL THE TRUTH. THE PUBLIC WILL ACCEPT THE TRUTH IF YOU TELL IT TO THEM, EVEN IF THEY DON'T LIKE IT. YOU THINK THEY DON'T KNOW BETTER THAN WHAT THEY ARE BEING TOLD? WHY DO YOU THINK AFTER

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

EVERY ELECTION THE PUBLIC WILL SAY--THEY LIE TO US, THEY MAKE PROMISES AND DON'T KEEP THEM. AND THE POLITICIANS SAY--YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, AND I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOME MORE LIES NEXT TIME. CAMPAIGN TIME IS LYING TIME. THE U.S. SUPREME COURT SAYS THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO TELL THE TRUTH. WHEN YOU ARE DEALING IN POLITICAL SPEECH YOU CAN LIE, YOU CAN MISREPRESENT, YOU CAN CALL PEOPLE NAMES. YOU CAN HOOK THEM UP WITH ISIS, AS THEY DID EX-SENATOR ASHFORD, AND GET AWAY WITH IT. AND NOBODY RAISED A WHISPER HERE. WHEN A REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR IN WISCONSIN COMPARED THE PEOPLE WHO WERE IN THE PUBLIC UNION TO ISIS, NOBODY SAID ANYTHING. WELL, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHO WOULD DENY THAT BASED ON WHAT YOU HEAR FROM THE RIGHT WINGERS, YOU ARE FACING A TAX CRISIS RIGHT NOW? WELL, LOOK AT THE WORD. TWO-THIRDS OF "CRISIS" IS "ISIS." TWO-THIRDS OF "CRISIS" IS "ISIS." YOUR "ISIS" IS PROPERTY TAX. NOW IF YOU SAID THAT, THEY WOULD SAY--BY GOD, THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT. BUT WHEN I MAKE A STATEMENT, AND WE AS BLACK PEOPLE ARE KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG BY POLICE, WHITE PEOPLE WANT TO SAY--WELL, YOU BLACK PEOPLE OUGHT TO DIE PEACEFULLY. YOU SHOULDN'T GET ANGRY; YOU SHOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING. THEN WHEN A COP GETS HIT UP SIDE THE HEAD WITH A BRICK, THERE IS MOURNING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. AND THE PERSON WHO THREW THE BRICK IS CONDEMNED. BUT THE COPS FIRED THE SHOTS THAT KILLED. SOME WHITE WOMAN WROTE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR SAYING THAT IF THE BLACK MAN IN SOUTH CAROLINA WHO WAS SHOT IN THE BACK BY A LYING, MURDERING COP, NOT A MEMBER OF ISIS, THIS WHITE WOMAN SAID IF HE HAD STAYED IN THE CAR HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SHOT, HE WOULD BE ALIVE TODAY. WELL, IF HE HADN'T BEEN BORN, HE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN SHOT. IF HE HAD BEEN BORN WHITE, HE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN SHOT. THAT'S THE CRAZINESS THAT BLACK PEOPLE HEAR. YOU ALL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE CONFRONT. AND THEN I LISTEN TO YOU WHINE ABOUT THINGS LIKE PROPERTY TAX LIKE IT IS THE END OF THE WORLD. YOU ALL NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE REAL WORLD THAT REAL PEOPLE HAVE TO CONFRONT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT HERE YOU ARE. YOUR FIBS ARE CATCHING UP TO YOU NOW. THERE ARE ENOUGH OF YOU TO PULL ANY BILL OUT OF ANY COMMITTEE THAT YOU WANT TO PULL OUT. WHY DON'T YOU DO IT? STOP TALKING AND DO SOMETHING. YOU ARE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING BUT TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, TALK, AND I COULD SAY THAT FIVE MINUTES. AND IT WOULD BE AS RATIONALE AS ANY ARGUMENTS THAT ARE GOING TO BE GIVEN HERE IF YOU DETERMINE RATIONALITY, BY THE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

LIKELIHOOD OF THAT TALK BEING CONVERTED INTO ACTION WHICH IT WON'T BE. HAVE THE DISCUSSION. DISCUSSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL OF A POLITICIAN, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T COST ANYTHING, DOESN'T DO ANYTHING, DOESN'T HELP ANYBODY, DOESN'T HURT ANYBODY EXCEPT THE FEELINGS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE MISLED BY PROMISES THAT THE PROMISOR KNEW COULDN'T BE KEPT AND WOULD NOT BE KEPT,... [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...BUT YOU WANT TO GET THE VOTE AND YOU GOT IT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR KOLTERMAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES, FOR THIS DISCUSSION THAT WE HAVE HAD. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE REVENUE, EDUCATION, AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, FOR WORKING ON THIS ISSUE. I KNOW THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AND I KNOW THAT WE CAN'T ADDRESS IT AND GET IT...ANYTHING ACCOMPLISHED PROBABLY THIS YEAR. BUT I DO THINK IT DESERVES, AS YOU HAVE HEARD, CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AS WE GO INTO THE INTERIM. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT, AS WE LOOK AT BILLS LIKE LB419, BILLS LIKE LB414, THAT HELP OUR URBAN COUNTERPARTS, WHICH I SUPPORT ON BOTH ISSUES. BUT WE ALSO CONTINUE TO LOOK AT HOW CAN WE WORK THROUGH THESE ISSUES TOGETHER. THERE ARE 49 OF US. I'M CONVINCED THAT WE CAN ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AND GET IT ACCOMPLISHED. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK SENATOR HARR FOR ALLOWING ME TO DISRUPT HIS DISCUSSION ON LB414. AND I WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW MY MOTION, AM1072. THANK YOU. [LB419 LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: WITHOUT EXCEPTION IT IS WITHDRAWN.
TURNING...CONTINUING WITH DEBATE, STILL IN THE QUEUE: SENATOR DAVIS, MURANTE, HUGHES, SCHUMACHER, AND CHAMBERS. SENATOR DAVIS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I REALLY WANTED TO ADDRESS SENATOR KOLTERMAN'S AMENDMENT, A LITTLE BIT, BECAUSE I THINK IT IS AN IMPORTANT DISCUSSION. THE 18 SENATORS THAT WERE NEWLY ELECTED IN THE FALL WILL REMEMBER THAT I WENT TO VISIT EACH ONE OF THEM TO TALK ABOUT 75/65 AND THE FLAWS THAT I SAW WITHIN IT. IT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA, BUT IT DOESN'T WORK VERY WELL WHEN YOU GET EVERYTHING FOCUSED DOWN TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT. AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM THAT WE RUN INTO. SO WE HAVE HEARD SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT HIGH PROPERTY TAXES AND FARMS THAT ARE FOR SALE AND RESIDENCES AND HOW IT SEEMS UNFAIR THAT A FARM IS...THAT IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SELL THE FARM YOU ARE GOING TO STILL HAVE TO PAY HIGHER PROPERTY TAXES, AND I SURE UNDERSTAND THAT CONVERSATION BECAUSE MY PLACE HAS BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR 126 YEARS AT THIS POINT. BUT YOU KNOW, YOU COULD SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT A RESIDENCE. SO IF A RESIDENCE HAS BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR A LONG TIME, THERE IS NO INTENT TO SELL IT, WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE TO PAY A HIGHER RATE. AND THAT'S THE WHOLE ISSUE OF PROPERTY VALUATION AND WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE. AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I THINK WE NEED TO LOOK AT NEXT SUMMER IN THIS BODY IS THE PROLIFERATION OF 1031 EXCHANGES IN RURAL PURCHASES OF PROPERTY, BECAUSE, I THINK, MAYBE THEY HAVE AN IMPACT AND I'M GOING TO TRY TO DO A STUDY ON THAT. I THINK THERE ARE A FEW POINTS THAT NEED TO BE SAID AND I'M GOING TO TRY TO HIT SEVERAL OF THOSE IF I'VE GOT TIME. BUT WHEN I WAS ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SITTING WITH KEN HAAR, I USED TO GO AT LOGGERHEADS WITH KEN. I'D SAY--YOU DON'T GET THE PROBLEM OF AG VALUATION, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. AND HE WOULD SAY TO ME--YOU KNOW YOU ARE PAYING ON 75 PERCENT OF YOUR VALUE, AND MY FOLKS ARE PAYING ON 100 PERCENT OF THEIR VALUE. AND YOUR LEVIES ARE 70 CENTS AND MINE ARE \$1.05, WHERE IS THE FAIRNESS IN THAT? WELL, I ALWAYS TRIED TO SAY TO KEN...SENATOR HAAR, YEAH, BUT IT IS THE WHOLE IMPACT OF THE DISPOSABLE INCOME. YOU CAN GET INTO ALL THESE DEBATES ABOUT IT. THE PROBLEM IS, THE URBAN PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE RURAL ISSUES WITH PROPERTY TAXES AND I THINK THAT'S TRUE ACROSS THE BOARD. SO I WANT TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT SOME OF THE STUDIES THAT I HAD DONE WITH REGARD TO 75/65. AND I JUST PULLED UP ONE OF THOSE JUST NOW AND...IN 22 OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THIS STATE, WE WILL SEE ABOUT A...BY THE TIME YOU...YOU DROP THOSE VALUATIONS FROM 75 TO 65, BUT REMEMBER THESE ARE MOSTLY AG SCHOOL DISTRICTS ANYWAY, SO BY THE TIME YOU DO THAT, YOU PLUG THE NEW FORMULAS BACK INTO THE PROCESS AND YOU END UP WITH...IN 22 OF THOSE DISTRICTS WITH A 2 PERCENT REDUCTION IN TAXES ON THE AG LAND. THE COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL STUFF THAT'S OUT THERE, THE PIVOTS, THE HOME

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

ON THE FARM...THE RANCH, THE OUTBUILDINGS ON THE FARM AND RANCH, THE EQUIPMENT THAT YOU HAVE ON THE FARM AND RANCH IS GOING TO GO UP 13 PERCENT IN THOSE DISTRICTS. SO YOU ARE REALLY REARRANGING THE CHAIRS ON THE TITANIC IF YOU WANT TO USE THAT EXPRESSION. THAT'S WHY IT DOESN'T WORK. IT'S AN UNEVEN APPLICATION, AND IF WE TRY TO DO SOMETHING WITH 75/65 AT THIS POINT, OUR URBAN COLLEAGUES IN HERE, RURAL SENATORS, ARE GOING TO SAY--HEY, WE FIXED YOUR PROBLEM LAST YEAR, WHEN IN REALITY, WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. AND THAT'S THE WHOLE DILEMMA WITH 75/65. SO I WONDER...WE HAVE SEEN SO MANY STUDIES THAT HAVE COME OUT ABOUT HOW OUR INCOME TAXES ARE TOO HIGH, OUR SALES TAXES ARE TOO HIGH, OUR GAS TAXES ARE TOO HIGH, AND WE ALWAYS HEAR, YEAH, OUR PROPERTY TAXES ARE PRETTY HIGH, BUT WE DON'T FIX THAT PROBLEM. BUT YOU KNOW, I WILL BET ON FARM AND RANCH LAND, I THINK OVERALL NEBRASKA IS FOURTH IN THE NATION IN PROPERTY TAXES. I THINK IF YOU LOOK AT FARM AND RANCH, WE ARE PROBABLY NUMBER ONE IN THE COUNTRY. I DON'T THINKS THAT'S WHERE WE WANT TO BE. WE NEED TO FIX THE PROBLEM. SO I INTRODUCED LB323, WHICH HAD A BUNCH OF COSIGNERS. I UNDERSTAND THAT, YOU KNOW, THERE IS SOME ISSUES WITH THE BILL IN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND WHY THEY DIDN'T VOTE IT OUT, AND I'M OKAY WITH THAT. [LB323 LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR DAVIS: ALTHOUGH, I THINK IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BETTER SOLUTION. BUT LET'S GO BACK...THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT,...LET'S GO BACK TO 1988 WHEN THE PROPERTY TAX PROBLEM WAS THERE. THE TAX REVIEW COMMISSION WAS PUT IN PLACE. IT CAME OUT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WERE ADOPTED BY THIS BODY OVER THE VETO OF GOVERNOR ORR TO RAISE INCOME 1 PERCENT AND SALES TAX 1 PERCENT TO FUND SCHOOLS. NOW I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW SINCE 1990, HOW MUCH CHIPPING AWAY WE HAVE DONE WITH TAX EXEMPTIONS, LIKE THIS WOODMEN BILL, INCOME TAX CUTS, ALL THOSE THINGS TO CHIP AWAY AT WHAT WAS A SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA THAT WORKED FOR EVERYBODY AND NO LONGER DOES. THE LAST POINT I WANT TO MAKE IS IF YOU GET YOUR BUDGET BOOK OUT AND YOU LOOK ON PAGE 68, YOU'RE GOING TO FIND THAT 44.8 PERCENT OF THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FUND IS NOW GOING TO AGRICULTURE. THAT'S UP FROM 24.1 PERCENT SOME YEARS AGO. SO THE STATE IS HELPING OUT. WE HAVE GOT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE AG PROBLEM. I GET THAT. I'M FULLY ON BOARD. WE NEED TO DO IT THIS SUMMER. AND I'M ANXIOUS TO WORK WITH THE COMMITTEE THAT'S GOING TO DO THAT. [LB414]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB414]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: MR. CLERK. [LB414]

CLERK: SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD MOVE TO BRACKET THE BILL UNTIL JUNE 5. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED ON YOUR MOTION. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, AS WE MOVE INTO THE POSTERIOR PORTIONS OF THE DAY, IT BECOMES MY TERRITORY. NOW, I HAVE BEEN READING THE NEWSPAPER AND WATCHING THE NEWS AND HAVE BEEN READING ACCOUNTS OF BLACK PEOPLE UNARMED BEING SHOT DEAD. THERE WAS A BLACK MAN WHO WAS SHOT DEAD ON THE STREETS OF OKLAHOMA. SEVERAL DEPUTIES HAD HIM ON THE GROUND. THIS OLD WHITE FOOL CAME UP AND PULLED A REVOLVER AND SHOT HIM DEAD AND SAID HE THOUGHT HIS REVOLVER WAS A TASER. AND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ACCEPTED. THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WAS MADE TO STEP DOWN BECAUSE HE HAD FALSIFIED AND ORDERED HIS UNDERLINGS TO FALSIFY THE TRAINING RECORDS OF THIS OLD FOOL WHO SHOT THIS BLACK MAN DEAD ON THE GROUND. AND I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE UPSET ABOUT THAT. AND YOU ALL AND OTHERS ARE GOING TO GET UPSET ABOUT WHAT I SAY ABOUT IT. THAT IS CRAZY. THAT'S WHY YOU LIGHT THE POWDER KEG. YOU WOULDN'T TAKE IT. HAVE YOU HEARD THE NAME CLIVEN BUNDY? HE'S THE WHITE GUY WHO GOT A WHOLE LOT OF WHITE MEN FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND WHITE WOMEN AND THEY FACED DOWN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WITH THEIR GUNS AND TOLD THEM--YOU'RE NOT GOING TOUCH THESE CATTLE, GET OUT OF HERE. AND THEY RAN THEM OFF THE LAND. I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING IN THIS LEGISLATURE ABOUT THIS GUY CHALLENGING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WITH GUNS. AND THEN MY WORDS GOT ALL PEOPLE UPSET. THAT IS RACISM PURE AND SIMPLE. WHEN THE WHITE MAN WITH HIS GUNS AND HIS PARTNERS WITH GUNS SCARE OFF FEDERAL AGENTS, THAT IS TO BE EXPECTED BECAUSE THEY ARE WHITE. I TALK ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH US. AND I HAVE TALKED ABOUT IT FOR YEARS ON THE FLOOR OF THIS LEGISLATURE, AT COMMITTEE HEARINGS. BUT THEN THAT RIGHT WING RACIST FOX NEWS PUTS SOMETHING ON THEIR PROGRAM AND YOU ALL WHO

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

HAD ACCESS TO THE TRANSCRIPT AND DIDN'T READ IT, RAN OFF WITH SOMETHING THAT WAS FALSE AND STOOD ON THE FLOOR AND MADE FOOLS OF YOURSELF AND OF THE LEGISLATURE. AND I WATCHED IT. I LISTENED TO IT. AND IN MY MIND I'M THINKING--THESE FOOLS; THESE ARE GROWN PEOPLE CARRYING ON LIKE THIS AFTER WHAT CLIVEN BUNDY DID. AND THEY SAID NOTHING ABOUT IT. THEN WHEN THE BLACK MAN WAS SHOT IN THE BACK IN SOUTH CAROLINA, THE COVER-UP BY THESE LYING, MURDEROUS COPS HAD STARTED ALREADY BECAUSE THEY DID NOT KNOW THAT THERE WAS A VIDEO. THAT VIDEO SHOWED THIS COP PLANTING THE TASER NEAR THE MAN HE HAD SHOT IN THE BACK. AND THEY WERE PUTTING THE WORDS ON THE SCREEN OF THE LIE HE HAD TOLD--THIS COP. AND I WATCH IT. AND I'M SUPPOSED TO NOT GET UPSET ABOUT IT. I'M SUPPOSED TO TRY TO GET THE PERMISSION OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T CARE TWO CENTS FOR ME AND MY PEOPLE BEFORE I SAY ANYTHING. AND ON THIS FLOOR THEY TALK ABOUT ANYTHING THEY WANT TO. I THINK MAYBE AN APOLOGY IS OWED BY ME TO ISIS. NOW PUT THAT IN YOUR PIPE AND SMOKE IT. WHAT ABOUT THIS YOUNG BLACK MAN WHO WAS MURDERED AND THEY HAD HIS FUNERAL THE OTHER DAY AND HIS SPINAL CORD WAS 80 PERCENT SEVERED. ISN'T THAT WHAT THEY SAY ISIS DOES TO PEOPLE? BUT YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISIS AND THE POLICE? ISIS WILL TELL YOU WE'LL TAKE YOUR HEAD. AND YOU CAN GO TO THE BANK WITH THAT. WHICH IS MORE THAN CAN BE SAID FOR THOSE COP CARS WITH THE PAINTED SLOGANS "TO PROTECT AND SERVE." IN OUR COMMUNITY, THAT IS A LIE, THAT IS AN INSULT, AND THEY KNOW IT. THEY STOP PEOPLE EVERY DAY, RIGHT NOW, IN MY COMMUNITY; DON'T CHARGE THEM WITH ANYTHING, STOP THEM BECAUSE THEY CAN. QUESTION THEM--WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU IN WERE JAIL? OH, YOU DON'T HAVE A RECORD? HOW DOES IT HAPPEN YOU ESCAPED? I LOOK AT THIS K2, THIS SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA. AND I'M TALKING TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO WATCH US. WHEN I TALKED FOR YEARS, AND I CAN DOCUMENT IT WITH ARTICLES, ABOUT THE FLOW OF GUNS INTO MY COMMUNITY, HOW LETHAL THEY ARE, AND NOTHING IS DONE ABOUT IT, NOTHING, THEY TALK ABOUT IMPROPER UPBRINGING IN THE HOME. THEN WHEN ALL THESE WHITE GUYS START USING THE SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA, THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT BAD UPBRINGING THEN. THEY WANT THE LEGISLATURE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. THEY WANT THE POLICE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. AND RIGHT NOW IN LINCOLN THEY ARE SAYING THAT THEIR RESOURCES ARE STRETCHED THIN BECAUSE THEY HAVE SO MANY OVERDOSES. WELL, WHY DON'T WHITE PEOPLE RAISE THEIR CHILDREN BETTER THEN? WHY DON'T THEY DO THAT? AND IF THEY'RE NOT GOING TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN BETTER, THEN STOP TELLING ME THAT SAME THING. GUNS ARE MORE LETHAL THAN THAT K2 MARIJUANA. AND I HAVE WRITTEN LETTER AFTER LETTER AFTER LETTER, THEN

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

YOUR MAYOR, NOT YOURS, OMAHA'S MAYOR, CHIEF OF POLICE, SCHMADERER, SMOOTH AS GOOSE GREASE AND ABOUT AS HONEST AS THE BIGGEST LIAR THAT YOU CAN FIND, AND THE GOVERNOR, TELLING ME TO APOLOGIZE. AND THEY DON'T SHOW ME THE COURTESY OF A RESPONSE OR AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT WHEN I WRITE TO THEM ABOUT THE UNIMPEDED FLOW OF GUNS INTO MY COMMUNITY THAT WINDS UP IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN. AND NONE OF THESE CROSS DISCIPLINARY LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUPS WILL GET TOGETHER TO PUT TOGETHER AN OPERATION TO TRACK DOWN THE SOURCE OF THOSE GUNS. BUT WHEN WHITE KIDS GET THE K2 MARIJUANA, HERE THEY COME. WHEN WHITE PEOPLE GET ON METHAMPHETAMINE, HERE THEY COME. AND THE LEGISLATURE PASSES LAWS ABOUT WHAT YOU CANNOT BUY MORE THAN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF; AND IT HAS TO BE PUT BEHIND THE COUNTER. BUT THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT INADEQUATE UPBRINGING FOR THESE WHITE PEOPLE. WHEN IT IS A NONWHITE PERSON AND THERE IS A PROBLEM, THOSE NONWHITE PEOPLE ARE THE PROBLEM. WHEN SOMETHING BEFALLS A WHITE COMMUNITY, THAT SOMETHING IS THE PROBLEM, NOT THE WHITE PEOPLE. NOT IMPROPER UPBRINGING. WHEN THESE WHITE KIDS ARE OVERDOSING ON PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION, WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY GET IT? THEY GET IT OUT OF THEIR MEDICINE CABINETS. THEY GET IT AT HOME. AND THAT'S NOT TALKED ABOUT. THERE WAS A YOUNG BLACK MAN WHO BECAME A LAWYER. HE WAS MUCH YOUNGER WHEN HE WENT TO YALE UNIVERSITY. HE SAID, WHILE I WAS AT THAT SCHOOL, THESE WHITE KIDS USED EVERY KIND OF DRUG THAT WAS KNOWN, AND NOT ONE OF THEM WENT TO JAIL; BUT FOUR BLOCKS AWAY IN A HOUSING PROJECT, THEY WERE ARRESTED, 10's AND 20's OF PEOPLE EVERY DAY FOR USING SOME OF THE SAME KIND OF DRUGS. AND THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE HOW WHITE PEOPLE ENFORCE THE LAW ON WHITE PEOPLE AND HOW THEY DO IT WHEN IT COMES TO US. AND YOU ALL HAVE THE NERVE TO THINK I OUGHT TO SIT UP HERE LIKE A KNOT ON A LOG, LIKE YOU ALL WHO HAVE EVERYTHING YOUR WAY, AND WE WHO HAVE THE BACK END OF EVERYTHING. AND IT IS NOT GOING TO BE. BUT AS MORE AND MORE OF THESE THINGS THAT I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THAT THE POLICE DO ARE PUBLICIZED, YOU ALL ARE GOING TO COME UP TO ME AND SAY, ERNIE, I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY. WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT POLICE MISTREATED BLACK PEOPLE; WE THOUGHT THE POLICE COULD DO NO WRONG AND THAT'S WHY WE JUSTIFY WHATEVER THEY DID. THEY SAID THEY FOUND THE TASER. HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THEY PLANTED IT THERE? BUT IF THERE HADN'T BEEN THAT VIDEO, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE STORY AND THAT'S WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED. AND HERE'S ANOTHER BLACK MAN WHO TOOK A TASER FROM A COP AND RAN OFF WITH IT. AND THAT'S WHY HE GOT SHOT IN THE BACK. HERE IS A BLACK MAN ON THE GROUND BEING HELD DOWN BY THESE DEPUTIES AND HE IS SHOT DEAD BY

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

A GUY WITH A REVOLVER WHO MISTOOK IT FOR A TASER. THEN A YOUNG GUY GETS HIS SPINAL CORD 80 PERCENT SEVERED. AND TO THIS DAY, NOBODY CAN SAY HOW IT HAPPENED. NOBODY. YOU LET ME BE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YOU THINK IT WOULD TAKE ALL THIS TIME BEFORE THEY CHARGE ME WITH A CRIME? ABSOLUTELY NOT, AND YOU ALL KNOW IT. BUT YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING. QUIET AS MICE. WHY DON'T YOU STAND UP HERE AND TALK ABOUT WHAT THE POLICE ARE DOING? BECAUSE YOU DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO US. IT IS MY JOB TO BRING IT TO YOU. THAT'S WHAT I AM, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING MISTREATED BY THESE POLICE... [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...WHO ARE WORSE THAN THE STORM TROOPERS AND THE SS WERE IN NAZI GERMANY. YOU KNOW WHY I SAY THAT? BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE POLICE WERE COMPARED TO BY WHITE PEOPLE. YET THE SS RAN THE EXTERMINATION CAMPS AND HERE WERE PEOPLE COMPARING THE WHITE POLICE TO THOSE WHO RUN EXTERMINATION CAMPS AND THEY WERE NOT CONDEMNED FOR IT. THEY WERE NOT CONDEMNED FOR IT. WHEN THAT NATIONAL GUARD TROOP SHOT THOSE STUDENTS AT KENT STATE, THERE WAS NO CONDEMNATION BY THE BETTER CLASS OF PEOPLE. BUT BY THE STUDENTS, THEIR PARENTS, AND THE ADMINISTRATORS, THERE WERE PLENTY OF COMPLAINTS AND CONDEMNATIONS. AND THOSE THINGS ARE GOING TO CONTINUE HAPPENING. YOU ALL ARE JUST LUCKY THAT BLACK PEOPLE DON'T LOAD UP ON GUNS LIKE WHITE PEOPLE HAVE DONE. IF THESE BLACK PEOPLE WERE LIKE CLIVEN BUNDY, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE JUST HAD SOME COPS WITH BROKEN BONES OR WHATEVER IT IS, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD SOME DEAD. THEY ARE IN A SOLID PHALANX. ANYBODY IN THE MILITARY KNOWS THEY DON'T FIGHT LIKE THAT ANYMORE. THAT'S THE WAY THEY DID DURING COLONIAL DAYS. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: EVERYBODY GETS UP IN A LINE. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR MURANTE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR MURANTE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. GOOD EVENING. I HAVE TO SAY I'M IN A PRETTY GOOD MOOD TODAY. THIS IS A GOOD DAY. BUT I ALSO HAVE TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, I WOKE UP, I WASN'T FEELING SO POSITIVE. I WAS IN KIND OF A...I WAS FEELING SOMEWHAT MOROSE, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU. MOSTLY BECAUSE WE HAVE TALKED A LOT ABOUT TAX POLICY THIS YEAR AND WE'VE HAD A GOOD DISCUSSION ABOUT TAX POLICY TODAY. AND I WAS FEELING A LITTLE BIT BLUE WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING BECAUSE SOME OF MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE CAUSE, THOSE OF US WHO BELIEVE THAT TAXES ARE TOO HIGH AND GOVERNMENT IS TOO BIG AND THAT WE OUGHT TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PAY FOR THE PRIORITIES THAT WE THINK ARE MOST IMPORTANT WITH THE MONEY THAT WE ALREADY TAX, HAVE UNFORTUNATELY VOTED FOR TAX INCREASES SO FAR THIS YEAR. AND WE'VE GOT ONE ON FINAL READING. BUT THEN TODAY, LISTENING TO THE DEBATE, I LISTENED TO THE WONDERFUL TONES OF SENATOR HUGHES AND SENATOR FRIESEN AND KOLTERMAN TALKING LEGITIMATELY ABOUT THE HIGH TAXES THAT WE HAVE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. AND FOR ME IT WAS LIKE HEARING HANDEL'S "HALLELUJAH" FOR THE FIRST TIME, A CHOIR IN THE BALCONY RAINING DOWN WONDERFUL MUSIC ON ALL OF US. THE CLOUDS PARTED AND IT WAS SUNNY HERE IN THE...IT WAS WARMTH OF SUNSHINE IS WHAT I FELT. PEOPLE WHO I KNOW ARE WITH US ON THE CAUSE, WHO BELIEVE THAT TAXES ARE TOO HIGH, I WAS STARTING TO FEEL LIKE I WAS IN ALICE IN WONDERLAND WHERE I'M WORKING WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS TO STOP A TAX INCREASE FROM HAPPENING. AND I WILL CONTINUE WORKING WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS TO STOP THAT TAX INCREASE. BUT WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE TAXES THAT WE HAVE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA DO NOT EXIST IN A VACUUM. AND WHEN WE TALK ABOUT TAXES BEING TOO HIGH, PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA DON'T LOOK AT IT AS THIS TAX OR THAT TAX, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, THEY KNOW THAT THEIR TAXES ARE TOO HIGH AND THAT THE TAXES NEED TO COME DOWN. SO WE'RE GOING TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY. WE MAY NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE FOR THE BILLS IN THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, WHICH SOME OF US SUPPORT AND THINK ARE GOOD PUBLIC POLICY, THOSE MAY NOT COME OUT THIS YEAR. THE RATIONALE FOR THAT HAS BEEN ARTICULATED TODAY BY SENATORS GLOOR AND HADLEY AND THEY BELIEVE THAT IT'S A LEGITIMATE BELIEF THAT THE TAX RELIEF PACKAGES THAT WE VOTED ON IN YEARS PAST ARE GOOD ENOUGH AND THE ADDITIONAL RELIEF OFFERED IN THE BILLS THAT ARE IN THE REVENUE COMMITTEE SHOULDN'T COME OUT. I DON'T AGREE WITH THAT ASSESSMENT, BUT THAT'S THEIR BELIEF, AND WE ARE NOT

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

GOING TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON THOSE BILLS THIS YEAR UNFORTUNATELY. BUT WE DO HAVE A CHANCE TO STOP THE PROBLEM FROM BEING EXACERBATED. WE DO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STOP DIGGING WHEN WE ARE ALREADY IN A VERY DEEP WELL OF HIGH TAXES. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY ON AN UPCOMING BUDGET DEBATE TO PAY FOR THE ISSUES THAT WE HAVE SAID ON THE FLOOR REPEATEDLY ARE OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES WITH TAXES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN LEVIED TO THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA. AND WE ARE GOING TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES WITHOUT RAISING THEIR TAXES FURTHER. SO I THANK THE MEMBERS OF THIS LEGISLATURE, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE CAUSE, FOR IMPROVING MY MOOD TODAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, COLLEAGUES. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DEBATE ON LB414 AND THE DEBATE ON TAXES AS A WHOLE AS THIS LEGISLATURE PROGRESSES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MURANTE. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) RETURNING TO DEBATE, SENATOR HUGHES YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND GOOD EVENING, COLLEAGUES. IT'S BETTER TO BE LUCKY THAN GOOD, TO BE IN THE QUEUE RIGHT BEHIND SENATOR MURANTE AND REMIND HIM THAT I WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT GROUSING ABOUT HIGH TAXES. I SAID THE TAXES WE HAVE ARE DISPROPORTIONATE. WE'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PROPERTY TAXPAYERS IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. EARLY ON DURING MY CAREER I SAID, I'M NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT THE TAXES I PAY. THE REASON I CAME DOWN HERE IS, I JUST DIDN'T AGREE WITH HOW WE WERE SPENDING THEM. THAT HAS NOT CHANGED. THANK YOU, SENATOR KOLTERMAN FOR BRINGING THE 75-65 AMENDMENT. I'VE NEVER WAVERED IN MY OPPOSITION TO THAT FACT. IT DOESN'T PROVIDE VERY MUCH RELIEF IN RURAL DISTRICTS. IT ONLY SHIFTS THE BURDEN FROM THE AG REAL ESTATE ON TO THE BACK OF THE SMALL TOWN RURAL HOMEOWNER. TODAY, WE HAVE A VERY QUICK REMINDER OF THE URBAN-RURAL SPLIT. THAT SPLIT DOES OCCUR IN THE COUNTRY TOO. YOU KNOW, I GET E-MAILS FROM CONSTITUENTS IN MY DISTRICT WHO LIVE IN SMALL TOWNS THAT AREN'T HAPPY THAT THEY'RE PAYING 95 TO 100 PERCENT ON THEIR HOUSES AND THOSE DARNED FARMERS ARE ONLY PAYING ON 75 PERCENT. SEVENTY-FIVE TO 65 IS NOT THE ANSWER. NINETY-FIVE AND 75 IS NOT THE ANSWER. THE PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA IS BROKEN. WE NEED TO FIX IT SOMEHOW. SENATOR GROENE MADE THE GOOD ANALOGY THAT THE TEAPOT IS SCREAMING. THAT IS PART OF THE EMPHASIS FOR THE WOODMEN OF THE WORLD BILL. THE TEAPOT IS SCREAMING. IT'S SCREAMING ALL OVER THE STATE. WE NEED TO BE LISTENING TO THAT,

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

LISTENING TO OUR CONSTITUENTS. IT'S NOT JUST AG PRODUCERS THAT WANT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, IT'S EVERYBODY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA NEEDS PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. I THANK SENATOR SULLIVAN FOR BRINGING THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION. HOPEFULLY, WE CAN COME UP WITH SOME IDEAS OF HOW WE CAN MAKE THE TAX REVENUE GENERATION FROM THE THREE TAXES WE HAVE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, INCOME, SALES, AND REVENUE, MORE EQUAL. IF WE CAN GET THEM TO A PLACE WHERE ONE SECTOR IS NOT BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF, YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE HERE...YOU WON'T HEAR ME TALKING MUCH ABOUT IT. WE PROVIDE LOTS OF TAX BREAKS IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT WAYS. AND IT JUST DEPENDS ON WHOSE CHAMPION IS THE BEST AT THE MIKE IN ANY GIVEN YEAR AND ANY GIVEN LEGISLATIVE SESSION THAT CAN CONVINCE MOST OF THEIR COLLEAGUES THAT IT'S A GOOD IDEA. THANK YOU. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HUGHES. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. THIS IS A KIND OF A GOOD PRELUDE TO THE BUDGET DISCUSSION. I WISH IT WAS AS BRIGHT A DAY AS SENATOR MURANTE WOULD LIKE TO THINK. A COUPLE OF HISTORIC OBSERVATIONS. ONE THING THAT WE'RE FORGETTING ABOUT, AND I HAVEN'T HEARD SENATOR GLOOR OR HADLEY MENTION, IS A BIG FACTOR AND IT HAPPENED JUST PROBABLY ABOUT THE TIME THEY WERE GETTING HERE, MAYBE A YEAR OR TWO BEFORE. THERE USED TO BE A THING IN NEBRASKA CALLED THE ESTATE TAX. AND WHEN YOU DIED AND YOU HAD MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PROPERTY, THE STATE GOT A BITE OF YOUR...AND A PRETTY BIG BITE OF YOUR ESTATE. THAT WAS IN ADDITION TO THE LITTLE 1 PERCENT COUNTY INHERITANCE TAX. THAT WAS ABOLISHED. OKAY. WE NO LONGER GET THAT ESTATE TAX BITE. AND SO, WHEN YOU HAVE A SECTION OF LAND IN YOUR ESTATE AND IT SELLS FOR, SAY, \$12,000 AN ACRE, AND YOU BRING IN \$7.5 MILLION ON THE SALE, YOU DON'T PAY AN ESTATE TAX. YOU MAY PAY ABOUT A \$70,000, GIVE OR TAKE, COUNTY INHERITANCE TAX AT 1 PERCENT, BUT NO MORE ESTATE TAX. THAT'S SOMETHING TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN WE'RE LOOKING FOR FAIRNESS. SECOND ITEM OF HISTORIC NOTE. A COUPLE YEARS AGO YOU MIGHT HAVE REMEMBERED THE BIG FISCAL CLIFF, OBAMA SCARE. AND OBAMA WAS SUPPOSED TO GET RID OF THE CAPITAL GAINS DEDUCTION SO YOU WOULD HAVE TO PAY ORDINARY INCOME TAX RATES ON YOUR CAPITAL GAINS. THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A BIG SHIFT IN FEDERAL ESTATE TAXES DOWN TO ONLY A MILLION-DOLLAR EXEMPTION. THE SKY WAS GOING TO FALL. LOTS AND LOTS OF PEOPLE HEDGED THEIR BETS, SOME SOLD THEIR CAPITAL GAIN PROPERTY

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. SALES THAT THEY WOULDN'T HAVE ORDINARILY MADE, BUT THEY WERE AFRAID OF OBAMA. AND LO AND BEHOLD, THAT BROUGHT IN A BONUS TO OUR CASH RESERVE OF ABOUT \$120 MILLION. WELL, INSTEAD OF THE ESTATE TAX AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL DROPPING TO A MILLION-DOLLAR EXEMPTION IT WENT UP TO \$5 MILLION AND THEN THERE WAS A LITTLE FLUKE IN IT THAT MADE A SPOUSE ELIGIBLE TO CLAIM THE UNUSED PORTION OF THE OTHER SPOUSE, SO EFFECTIVELY INSTEAD OF A ONE MILLION DOLLAR EXEMPTION, IT BECAME A FEDERAL FOR JOINT FILERS, \$10 MILLION EXEMPTION. THAT WRONG BET GAINED THE STATE \$120 MILLION IN REVENUE THAT WENT INTO OUR CASH RESERVE. AND IT'S SOMETHING TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN WE START FEELING RICH WHEN WE START LOOKING AT STATE FINANCES. THIRD THING, IF YOU LOOK AT YOUR BUDGET DOCUMENT, GUESS WHAT? WE GENERALLY HAD A PRINCIPAL OF TWO TIMES A MONTH'S REVENUE IN OUR CASH RESERVE. WELL, IF YOU LOOK AT THAT LAST COLUMN, 18 TO 19, THAT SHOULD BE A \$700 MILLION CASH RESERVE. IT'S SHOWING AT \$714 MILLION. SO, THESE ESTIMATES START SPENDING THE CASH RESERVE IN ORDER TO MAKE IT ALL WORK AND THAT WE WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS LATER ON WHETHER IT'S SOUND POLICY OR NOT TO SPEND DOWN OUR CASH RESERVE. WE'VE GOT SOME REAL, REAL, REAL THINGS THAT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH. WE CAN'T TAKE THE INCOME TAX UP. WE'RE ALREADY ON THE HIGH END OF NORMAL. WE TAKE IT UP FROM THE 6.84 PERCENT, WE'RE GOING TO START SEEING A CONSEQUENCE THAT WE DON'T WANT TO SEE. WE START BEGINNING TO STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB. IF WE TAKE SALES TAX RATES UP, ABOVE 7 PERCENT IN THE CITY, WE'RE GOING TO AGAIN STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: IF WE BEGAN TO PULL SOME EXEMPTIONS, MOST OF THOSE EXEMPTIONS ARE GOING TO HIT THE FOLKS MAKING \$20,000 TO \$120,000 A YEAR AND THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK EITHER. THEY CAN'T TAKE...THAT BRACKET CANNOT TAKE A TAX INCREASE. SO, IF WE WANT TO TALK PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, WHERE IS THAT GOING TO COME FROM? IN MOST OF OUR RURAL COUNTIES WHAT ENDS UP HAPPENING IS THERE'S NO PLACE TO SHIFT THE TAX TO EXCEPT MAYBE A FEW SMALL TOWNS AND WHAT'S THERE, A GREAT ELEVATOR AND A VACATING MAIN STREET. SO, IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK IN THE BULK OF THE AGRICULTURAL AREA. GOT TO FACE REALITY. THERE'S NO TAX MIRACLES. WELL, THEN THE MIRACLE WE GOT TO LOOK AT IS IN THE BUDGET. WE GOT TO START CUTTING SPENDING. ALL RIGHT, WHERE? WE KNOW THERE ARE A COUPLE OF HUGE TRENDS THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GRAPPLE

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

WITH AND MAYBE IF WE'RE LUCKY, WE'RE OUT ARE HERE BEFORE THEY REALLY HIT IT HOME. BABY BOOMER EXPENSES FOR MEDICAID, HUGE, HUGE, HUGE. THE BABY BOOMERS ARE GOING TO LIVE LONGER AND THEY HAVEN'T SAVED BEANS FOR THE MOST PART. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB414]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, NOW THAT I'VE UNBURDENED MY SOUL TALKING ABOUT WHAT SOMETHING MEANT TO ME, I'M GOING TO COME BACK TO TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT OSTENSIBLY MEANS SOMETHING TO YOU ALL. ON THIS BILL, WE CAN CAST A VOTE THAT WILL HAVE SOME RELEVANCE TO ALL OF THIS TALK ABOUT THE SALES...ABOUT THE PROPERTY TAXES. WILL IT BE SYMBOLIC? THE TALK IS NOT EVEN SYMBOLIC. THIS WILL BE A CONCRETE ACTION DELIBERATELY, INTENTIONALLY TAKEN TO CREATE A CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION, NO ACTION OF CONSEQUENCE, ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF CAN OCCUR. BUT ONCE YOU VOTE TO ADVANCE THIS BILL, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU DO, THEN ALL OF THIS TALK, I LOVE TO QUOTE THOSE WORDS BY SHAKESPEARE, AS A TALE TOLD BY AN IDIOT, FULL OF SOUND AND FURY, SIGNIFYING NOTHING. WHAT NEW THING DOES ANYBODY IN HERE GENUINELY BELIEVE CAN BE SAID WITH REFERENCE TO PROPERTY TAXES? WHAT NEW THING CAN BE SAID ABOUT STATE AID? WHAT NEW WHINE CAN ISSUE FORTH? WHAT NEW COMPLAINT CAN ISSUE FORTH? WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE THE GROANER OR THE "GROANEE?" NOTHING NEW WILL ISSUE FORTH. WE ALL KNOW IT. ORDINARILY, I'D BE DOWN IN MY OFFICE DOING SOME REAL WORK, BUT THIS IS SUCH A BAD BILL THAT I HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE MY EFFORT TO STOPPING IT. I DIDN'T MAKE PROMISES ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES. I DIDN'T MAKE PROMISES ABOUT SCHOOL AID. NONE OF THOSE THINGS DO I MISLEAD PEOPLE ABOUT BECAUSE I'VE BEEN AROUND HERE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE WHAT IS NOT GOING TO BE DONE IN THIS LEGISLATURE. MAYBE SOME OF THOSE NEW PEOPLE SWALLOWED THAT POISON TEA, NOT THE KOOL-AID, THAT POISON TEA THAT THE TEA PARTY SERVED UP AND SAID, YOU GO DOWN THERE AND MAKE THE GOVERNMENT SMALLER. SO, I'M GOING TO SAY THAT, KNOCK ON EVERY DOOR, AND SOMEBODY SAYS, BY THE WAY, DON'T

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

YOU HAVE A RELATIVE WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT? I SAY, WELL, YEAH, BUT EVERYBODY GOT TO MAKE A LIVING. WELL, MAYBE IF YOUR RELATIVE WOULD LEAVE GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD REDUCE THE SIZE OF IT SOME WOULDN'T IT, AND BE MORE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT YOU TALK ABOUT ALL THE TIME? BUT, NO, IT'S ALWAYS SOMEBODY ELSE. ALWAYS THEE AND YEE, BUT NEVER MOI, EVER. AND THAT'S THE WAY IT'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE. I WAS SENT SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT SENATORS WHO ARE COLLECTING OVER \$100,000 IN FARM SUBSIDIES, OVER \$200,000. LET SOMEBODY SAY THAT I'M LYING. LET SOMEBODY DARE STAND ON THIS FLOOR AND SAY I'M NOT TELLING THE TRUTH AND THEN LET'S SQUARE THEIR VOTE AGAINST EXTENDING MEDICAID COVERAGE TO PEOPLE WHOSE FAMILIES DON'T HAVE THE MEDICAID OR MEDICAL COVERAGE THEY NEED, BECAUSE THEY TALK ABOUT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOT PAY, BUT THEY'RE STEADILY SUCKING IN THAT SUBSIDY, OVER \$100,000, OVER \$200,000. I CAN GIVE AN EXACT AMOUNT FOR ONE, \$260,000, \$260,000, AND HE KNOWS WHO I'M TALKING ABOUT. I DARE HIM TO STAND UP AND SAY I'M LYING. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: HE KNOWS THAT I KNOW WHO HE IS. I'M LIKE THE LORD. JUDGMENT DAY IS NOT HERE YET, BUT YOU KNOW WHETHER YOU HAVE TRANSGRESSED. YOU KNOW WHETHER YOU HAVE DONE TO OTHERS WHAT YOU WOULD NOT WANT DONE TO YOU. YOU HAVE PREVENTED OTHERS FROM RECEIVING THE HELP THAT YOU RECEIVE IN MULTIPLES. SOME DAY ALL THINGS MAY BE MADE KNOWN. WHAT'S WHISPERED IN THE CLOSET WILL BE SHOUTED FROM THE HOUSE TOP. I MADE A STATEMENT ABOUT SOMEBODY GOOGLING AND GETTING THIS INFORMATION AND SOMEBODY TOOK ME UP ON IT. IT'S ABOUT TO MAKE ME LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THAT GADGET, BUT AS YET, I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE THE DISCLOSURE. THIS PERSON MIGHT TALK TO THE NEWS MEDIA BECAUSE I THINK THERE'S GENUINELY A STORY THERE. THEN WE CAN FIND OUT WHO IS REAL ON THIS FLOOR. ALL THE HIGH-SOUNDING TALK. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WANT TO THANK SENATOR HUGHES FOR REMINDING ME OF THE TEAPOT SCENARIO. WOULD WOODMEN OF THE WORLD BE COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR PROPERTY TAXES IF THEY WERE \$600,000 INSTEAD OF \$1.2 MILLION? I DOUBT IT. WOULD WE BE TALKING ABOUT IF WE GIVE WOODMEN A TAX, IT'S ECONOMIC...IT GROWS THE ECONOMY IF IT WAS \$600,000? PROBABLY NOT. WOULD WE BE TALKING ABOUT A ZOO GETTING ITS SALES TAX BACK, NOT BEING CHARGED SALES TAX ON THEIR SALES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IF THE SALES TAXES WERE LESS? PROBABLY NOT. NOW, IMAGINE WHAT SOME OF US ARE SAYING HERE. IF WE GIVE A PROPERTY TAX OR TAX BREAK TO EVERYBODY, IMAGINE THE ECONOMIC BOOM. WOULDN'T THAT TRANSLATE TO EVERYBODY STATEWIDE, THE SAME ARGUMENT I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE WOODMEN AND THE ZOO'S? I WOULD THINK IT WOULD. IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE. THE REVERSE OF THAT IS WAS WHAT WAS DONE BY THIS BODY BETWEEN 2006 AND 2012. THEY KEPT THE GROWTH IN THE BUDGET A LITTLE UNDER 3 PERCENT, OR RIGHT AT 3 PERCENT, A LITTLE UNDER. ECONOMY OUTGREW IT, AND SENATOR HADLEY AND GLOOR REMIND US HOW MUCH YOU'VE CUT TAXES. DOESN'T TAKE A LOT, FOLKS. YOU CONTROL THE SPENDING AND THE TAX CUTS COME. AND YOU CAN THANK THAT BODY WHOEVER WAS THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THAT KEPT IT AT 2 TO 3 PERCENT FOR THOSE TAX CUTS. THEY DON'T HAPPEN. THEY JUST DIDN'T HAPPEN IF WE DIDN'T NEED THE MONEY. WE SURVIVED THE CRASH OF 2009 BECAUSE THE BUDGET WAS UNDER CONTROL PRIOR TO THAT. WE WEREN'T OUT SPENDING MONEY. LET'S CONTROL SPENDING AND WE CAN GIVE TAX CUTS. NOW, I'M ONE OF THOSE FOLKS WHO HAS NEVER TAKEN A GOVERNMENT CHECK IN MY LIFE. I'VE GOT A LITTLE FARM GROUND. I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THE PROGRAM. SO, I'M THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE. AND I'LL ALSO TELL SENATOR SCHUMACHER, IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE ONCE REMOVED, YOU PAY 13 PERCENT INHERITANCE TAX. I KNOW A FAMILY THAT JUST DID THAT. THERE ARE SOME OF US WHO PAY A LOT OF TAXES THROUGH OUR LIVES. I WORKED MY WAY--I LIVED BEHIND A VET CLINIC ON 66th STREET--WORKED MY WAY THROUGH COLLEGE AND GOT OUT AT EIGHT SEMESTERS. I WASN'T BORN RICH. THE AMERICAN DREAM EXISTS AND IN MY LIFE, I'VE PAID A LOT MORE IN TAXES THAN I'VE TAKEN BACK FROM THE GOVERNMENT. AND DON'T LOOK AT ME AND SAY, OH, THAT AIN'T TRUE BECAUSE THE SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK UNLESS SOMEBODY PAYS MORE THAN THE PERSON WHO TAKES MORE. IT JUST DOESN'T WORK. SO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE HAD THIS ON OUR BURDEN ON OUR BACK OF PAYING THE TAXES, WE DON'T MIND. WE ENJOY WORK AND IF YOU TAKE SOME FOR TAXES, WE WANT GOOD SCHOOLS, BUT DON'T SIT THERE AND CRITICIZE US BECAUSE WE'RE TIRED OF IT. WE'RE TIRED OF THE NEXT PROGRAM THAT COMES DOWN AND THE GOOD WORKS THAT YOU DO WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR'S TAX DOLLARS. WE'LL PAY OUR TAXES,

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

BUT, BY GOD, HAVE A LITTLE COMPASSION ON US THAT DO, THE 20 OR 30 PERCENT OF US THAT PAY MOST OF THE TAXES. IT WASN'T GIVEN TO US, WE JUST WORK HARD. IT'S THE AMERICAN DREAM, THEY USED TO CALL IT. AND THOSE FARMERS OUT THERE WORK HARD. THEY WORK EVERY DAY AND THEY DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO ANYBODY THAT THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAXES THEY PAY. SO, ANYWAY, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE SPENDING. THIS DEBATE WAS GOOD BECAUSE IT NEEDED TO BE ON THE FLOOR. IT'S EASY TO SPEND. IT'S EASY TO DO YOUR GOOD WORKS WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR'S TAX DOLLARS STARTING OUT OF HHS PROGRAM. GOTTEN ALONG 200 YEARS IN THE STATE WITHOUT IT, BUT, BY GOD, WE NEED IT THIS YEAR. I WOULD ENCOURAGE MY COLLEAGUES TO SAY NO, JUST SAY NO. EVERY A BILL, SAY NO. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR GROENE: VOTE NO ON IT. AS BACK TO THE WOODMEN, WE HAVE A SYSTEM IN PLACE FOR PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS. YOU CAN GO TO YOUR COUNTY WHICH WOODMEN IS DOING RIGHT NOW, DOUGLAS COUNTY. DOUGLAS COUNTY DOES NOT WANT THIS BILL. PROPERTY TAXES ARE LOCAL, THEY'RE NOT A STATE ISSUE. OUR STATE CONSTITUTION SAYS THE...ACTUALLY SAYS, PRETTY PLAIN, THAT THE STATE SHALL NOT ISSUE A PROPERTY TAX FOR ITS PURPOSES. WELL, IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT A PURPOSE? MESSING WITH PROPERTY TAXES ON A LOCAL LEVEL? SHOULD WE BE DOING THAT? AND THEN IF THE WOODMEN...IF WOODMEN HAS THE COURTS TO GO THROUGH, THEY ALSO HAVE A STATE EQUALIZATION BOARD THEY CAN GO TO IF THEY DON'T LIKE THEIR PROPERTY TAXES THE WAY THEY ARE. WHY ARE WE JUMPING INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS? WE DON'T THINK OUR SYSTEM IS RIGHT? THE PRESENT PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINT SYSTEM? [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB414]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR BURKE HARR, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, AND SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR BURKE HARR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. GLAD THAT SENATOR GROENE BROUGHT THE BILL BACK TO...OR THE CONVERSATION BACK TO THE BILL AND WHAT THIS IS REALLY ABOUT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR HARR, CAN I INTERRUPT FOR JUST A SECOND? WE LOVE THAT YOU'RE UP THERE, BUT PLEASE DON'T HANG OUT OVER THE EDGE OF THE BALCONY. SIT BACK DOWN. I'M SURE YOU CAN SEE FROM THERE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY. THANK YOU SO MUCH. I APPRECIATE IT. SENATOR HARR, YOU WON'T BE PENALIZED, GO AHEAD. [LB414]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, SENATOR...OR, MR. PRESIDENT. SO WHAT IS THIS BILL REALLY ABOUT? IS THAT YOU HAVE 92 COUNTIES IN THE STATE THAT YOUR PATERNAL BENEFIT ORDERS ONE WAY. YOU HAVE ONE COUNTY WHO TREATED IT DIFFERENTLY. AND EVEN WITHIN DOUGLAS COUNTY, THEY TREATED THE PATERNAL BENEFIT ORDERS DIFFERENTLY UNTIL THEY REALIZED IT WAS BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION. SO, THE QUESTION IS, THIS IS NOT ABOUT TAX EXEMPTION, THERE'S TAX EXEMPTION THAT, NOT ABOUT THE ZOO, THIS IS ABOUT HOW DO WE WANT TO CREATE UNIFORMITY IN FAIRNESS. NOW, YOU MAY NOT LIKE THAT PATERNAL BENEFIT ORDERS ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS A NONPROFIT, BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT ON THE STATE LEVEL. THIS BILL IS VERY SIMPLE. IT'S CLARIFICATION. I UNDERSTAND THE COUNTY IS AGAINST THIS BILL. IT CAME IN AT THE 11th HOUR. BECAUSE, AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW...THEY DID A VOTE OF THE BOARD LATE, AND THE RESOLUTION DOESN'T REALLY SAY WHY THEY'RE AGAINST IT. IT JUST SAYS, WHEREAS THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER. I HAVE ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE MAYOR THAT SAYS SHE SUPPORTS IT AND THEY RECEIVE MORE PROPERTY TAX. THEY...FUNDING FROM PROPERTY TAX. I HAVE ONE FROM THE CITY COUNCIL. IT SAYS THE SAME THING. YOU KNOW, THERE'S A LOT OF MISTRUTHS THAT ARE GOING ON AROUND THIS BILL. ANOTHER MISTRUTH OUT THERE IS THAT THE WHOLE WOODMEN BUILDING WILL BE EXEMPT. AND SO I TOOK THAT SERIOUSLY AND I CALLED AND ASKED FOR...WROTE AND ASKED FOR AN AG LETTER, OPINION LETTER, AND ALSO FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE. AND BOTH OF THOSE...BOTH OF THEM SAID THE PORTION OF THE BUILDING USED FOR THE CHARITABLE, IN THIS CASE, SELLING INSURANCE, WOULD NOT BE TAXABLE. THE OTHER PARTS OF THE BUILDING WHERE THERE'S A LAW FIRM, A BANK, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE FOR PROFIT, THEY, IN FACT, WOULD PAY PROPERTY TAXES. SO THIS \$1.2 (MILLION), IS NOT \$1.2 (MILLION). BUT, AGAIN, THIS IS ABOUT CLARIFYING STATUTE. THERE'S AN INCONSISTENCY. PATERNAL BENEFIT ORDER SOCIETIES ARE TREATED ONE WAY IN 92 COUNTIES, A DIFFERENT WAY IN DOUGLAS COUNTY. ALL I'M TRYING TO DO IS CODIFY HOW

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

THEY'RE TREATED IN THOSE 92 COUNTIES. THAT'S SIMPLE. NOTHING MORE. SO, WHEN WE VOTE ON THIS BRACKET, I WOULD ASK THAT YOU PLEASE NOT VOTE FOR THE BRACKET AND THAT YOU VOTE TO ADVANCE LB414. THANK YOU.
[LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.)
SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. PICKING UP WHERE I LEFT OFF BEFORE, LOOKING AT THE EXPENSE SIDE DOWN THE ROAD, HOPEFULLY, WE'LL ALL BE OUT OF HERE BEFORE THESE REALLY COME TO A HEAD. BUT ON THE EXPENSE SIDE ARE EXPENSES FOR OLD AGE ASSISTANCE ARE GOING TO GO UP. THEY'RE GOING TO GO UP BECAUSE THE BABY BOOMERS EITHER DID NOT MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO SAVE, SPENT THE MONEY THEY MADE, OR THE MONEY THEY SAVED DID NOT DRAW ANY INTEREST OR RETURN ON INVESTMENT, AND WE ARE A CONSERVATIVE STATE AND DIDN'T GAMBLE ENOUGH ON THE STOCK MARKET. AS A RESULT OF THAT, THE INTEREST DID NOT COMPOUND LIKE IT SHOULD HAVE, AND THE KITTY IS FAR SMALLER NOW THAN MANY OF US HOPED IT WOULD BE. ULTIMATELY, THAT BURDEN, THAT SHORTFALL, IS GOING TO FALL ON STATE GOVERNMENT AND OUR OLD AGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND IT'S GOING TO BE A BIG NUMBER. AND THAT NUMBER IS GOING TO GO UP AND UP AND UP AS THE FOLKS WHO ARE BORN IN '65 END UP APPROACHING AGE 65. AND IT'S GOING TO STAY UP UNTIL THE BABY BOOMERS ARE NO LONGER AROUND. IT'S ONE OF THE THINGS. WE KNOW IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, WE'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND OUR PENITENTIARY CAPACITY. AND HOW ARE WE GOING TO DEAL WITH THE GIVE OR TAKE 40 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE THERE WHO ARE NOT DANGEROUS, BUT WHO ARE MENTALLY ILL OR HAVE DRUG PROBLEMS. AND THE EXPENSE THAT WE HAVE ON THAT IS NOT GOING TO BE ON THE ORDER OF \$30 MILLION OVER SIX YEARS. THAT'S DISNEY WORLD. IT'S GOING TO BE, IF WE WANT TO DEAL WITH IT, A LOT OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES, A LOT OF PSYCHOLOGISTS, OR SOME TYPE OF SOCIAL WORKERS OR INTERNS OR WHATEVER TO TAKE CARE OF THAT POPULATION, AND WE'RE LOOKING CLEARLY IN THE \$100 MILLION-PLUS BILL FOR THAT WITHOUT BUILDING NEW PENITENTIARY FACILITIES. THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT OUR MAJOR CITIES ARE OVEREXTENDING THEMSELVES WANTING TO BORROW SO MUCH MONEY AND WANTING TO MAKE PENSIONERS BIG PROMISES AND NOW HEDGING THEIR BETS, NOT WANTING TO CLOSE THEIR BANKRUPTCY OPTIONS ON THEM. WE KNOW THAT IF THAT HAPPENS, THEY'RE GOING TO BE KNOCKING AT OUR DOOR WITH BILLION DOLLAR PRICE TAGS SAYING, LOOK, WE'RE TOO BIG TO FAIL, YOU

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

NEED TO ANTE UP. WE HAVE A PENSION PROGRAM WHERE THE STATE IS UNDERWRITTEN AND PROMISE TO MAKE UP SHORTFALLS ON PENSIONS. AND OUR PENSION OBLIGATIONS ARE COMPUTED OUT THAT, WELL, WE'RE GOING TO PRETEND THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE 7 OR 8 PERCENT COMPOUNDED FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS AND IT'S GOING TO BE WONDERFUL. WELL, NONE OF US HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET 7 OR 8 PERCENT PROMISES ON A CD OR ANY TYPE OF INVESTMENT VEHICLE FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS, AND MOST LIKELY, SOMEBODY WILL BE IN THIS BODY SAYING, WE HAVE GOT TO ANTE UP. AND THAT'S NOT EVEN BEGINNING TO LOOK AT THE ORDINARY EXPENSES THAT WE WILL HAVE TO BEAR IN ORDER TO KEEP THE BOAT AFLOAT ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. THE IDEA OF BIG CUTS IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING, NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. WE'LL BE LUCKY IF WE HOLD THE LINE AND WE PROBABLY ARE GOING TO LOSE THAT BATTLE. SO, WE CANNOT LOOK THE VOTERS IN THE EYE AND BE HONEST WITH THEM AND SAY, LOOK, YOU'RE GOING TO SEE BIG TAX DECREASES. THE MOST WE COULD DO, AS I THINK SENATOR GLOOR MENTIONED, IS YOU CAN BUNT THE BALL A LITTLE BIT. BUT IN THE END, LIFE IS WHAT IT IS, AND I THINK MOST NEBRASKANS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT LIFE BEING FOR WHAT IT IS. WHAT THEY'RE NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT... [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: ...IS AN INSTITUTION THAT HOLDS ITSELF OUT AS A LIGHTNING ROD, BUILDS THE TALLEST BUILDING IN THE CITY, COMING IN AND ASKING FOR A TAX BREAK WHEN THERE'S NOTHING "INCENTIVATIVE" FOR THE ORDINARY PERSON. THAT WE CAN'T DO. THAT WOULD BE UNCONSCIONABLE. THAT WE DARE NOT DO BECAUSE I THINK THERE'S GOING TO BE A BACKLASH, RATIONAL OR NOT, AGAINST THAT KIND OF ACTION. WE NEED TO SAY TO THE FOLKS WHO ASK TO DRAW LIGHTNING, THAT YOU'VE DRAWN SOME, AND LB414 NEEDS TO GO TO BED. THANK YOU. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, CHAMBERS, AND McCOLLISTER. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND COLLEAGUES. I'LL BE VERY BRIEF HERE, AND I'LL REFER TO SOMETHING THAT SENATOR GROENE SAID BEFORE. WHEN SENATOR SCHUMACHER WAS TALKING ABOUT OUR INHERITANCE TAX AT 1 PERCENT, THAT'S IF YOU PASS IT TO A DIRECT DESCENDANT. IF YOU SHOULD BE SO UNFORTUNATE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

DIRECT DESCENDANTS AND YOU CHOOSE TO PASS IT OFF TO A NIECE OR A NEPHEW, THAT RATE GOES TO 13 PERCENT. IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE ONE OF THE LAST SURVIVORS OF THE FAMILY AND YOU DON'T HAVE A RELATIVE TO PASS IT TO, COLLEAGUES, THAT GOES TO 15 PERCENT. THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD CHUNK OF MONEY ON A SECTION OF LAND. A SECTION OF LAND, 640 ACRES AT EVEN \$8,000 AN ACRE, 15 PERCENT, \$768,000. IF YOU INHERIT A LITTLE PIECE OF GROUND, COLLEAGUES, YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE THAT JINGLING IN YOUR FRONT POCKET. SO, LET'S BE A LITTLE CAUTIOUS WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE INHERITANCE TAX DOESN'T AMOUNT TO ANYTHING. IT CERTAINLY CAN, AND IN MANY INSTANCES DOES. IN MANY INSTANCES, THEY HAVE TO SELL THE INHERITANCE IN ORDER TO PAY THE TAX. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED AND THIS IS YOUR THIRD TIME. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ESPECIALLY TO SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, MY WILL IS WRITTEN ALREADY. I HAVE LITTLE, I OWE MUCH, THE REST I LEAVE TO THE POOR. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THIS BILL GIVES US THAT OPPORTUNITY THAT I MENTIONED TO ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING. WHEN WE VOTE ON THIS MOTION, IT WILL BE A TEST VOTE. IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST 17 VOTES TO STOP THEM FROM SUCCEEDING AND GETTING A CLOTURE VOTE. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK SENATOR HARR A QUESTION IF HE WOULD RESPOND. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR HARR, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB414]

SENATOR HARR: OF COURSE. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR HARR, DID I UNDERSTAND YOU TO SAY THAT MAYOR JEAN STOTHERT OF OMAHA WROTE A LETTER SUPPORTING THIS BILL? [LB414]

SENATOR HARR: LETTER OR E-MAIL. SHE MAY HAVE TEXTED IT. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SOME WRITTEN COMMUNICATION, THOUGH. SOME WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IN SOME FORM OF WRITING SO THAT YOU KNOW OR

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

YOU'RE CONVINCED THAT SHE TOOK A POSITION, HOWEVER, IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL, IS THAT TRUE? [LB414]

SENATOR HARR: WELL, AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE CITY OF OMAHA CAME DOWN AND TESTIFIED IN FAVOR OF THE BILL. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YOU MENTIONED THE MAYOR. THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO FOCUS ON. [LB414]

SENATOR HARR: OKAY. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: DID THE MAYOR TAKE A POSITION IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL? [LB414]

SENATOR HARR: SHE IS IN FAVOR OF IT, YES. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: DO YOU THINK OF HER AS A CREDIBLE PERSON? [LB414]

SENATOR HARR: AS A WHAT PERSON? [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: CREDIBLE, C-R-E-D-I-B-L-E, BELIEVABLE, CREDIBLE, WORTHY OF BELIEF, WORTHY OF TRUST. [LB414]

SENATOR HARR: AS MUCH AS ANYBODY I KNOW. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: NOW, THAT'S LIKE SAYING, AS FAR AS I KNOW, JESSE JAMES DIDN'T ROB A BANK. [LB414]

SENATOR HARR: THAT WOULD BE FAIR. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. BUT HERE'S WHAT I WANT TO GET TO, AND HE WAS CAGEY BECAUSE HE KNOWS HOW SENATOR...MAYOR STOTHERT IS. SHE WAS AFTER THIS GROUP CALLED MECA, THE METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT AND CONVENTION AGENCY, WHATEVER IT'S CALLED, AND HER WORD WAS TRANSPARENCY. WE WANT TRANSPARENCY. WE WANT THE PUBLIC TO KNOW THIS. THE PUBLIC SHOULD SEE IT. PUBLIC'S BUSINESS IS BEING UNDERTAKEN. BUT WITH ALL OF THE POLICE SHOOTINGS, THERE WAS A WHITE GUY WHO WAS

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SHOT IN THE BACK, TWICE. TWO OF THE BULLETS HIT HIM IN THE BACK, ONE IN THE ARM, BUT HE WAS SHOT IN THE BACK. HE WAS STANDING ON THE HOOD OF A CAR. HE WAS HOLDING ON TO THIS BARBED WIRE FENCE AND HE HAD RAISED ONE LEG AND THIS COP WHO HAD KILLED ANOTHER GUY SHOT HIM IN THE BACK. AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE CHIEF SAID WITH HIS LYING SELF? WELL, HE THOUGHT THAT THE OTHER OFFICERS THAT HE WAS FACING WERE IN DANGER. THEY GOT GUNS. IF THEY FELT ENDANGERED, WHY DIDN'T THEY SHOOT HIM? THIS GUY SHOT HIM TWICE IN THE BACK AND HERE'S WHERE I GET TO THE TRANSPARENCY. MAYOR STOTHERT WILL NOT ALLOW THAT CRUISER VIDEO TO BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC. IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, THEY'RE BEING COMPELLED TO DO IT. WHY WON'T HIS FRIEND MAYOR STOTHERT, WHO CONDEMNS MECA FOR NOT BEING TRANSPARENT, NOT SHOW TRANSPARENCY ON AN ISSUE SUCH AS THIS. THAT'S HOW YOU, WHAT THEY CALL IN THE COURTROOM, IMPEACHING THE CREDIBILITY OF A WITNESS. SO YOU CAN TAKE WHAT SHE SAID ON THIS BILL FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH. BUT I WISH THAT SOMEBODY, A BIG SHOT FROM WOODMEN OF THE WORLD HAD COME TO ME, AND HE SAID, SENATOR CHAMBERS, I THINK YOU DO HAVE A MEASURE OF INFLUENCE DOWN THERE IN THE LEGISLATURE, WE'D LOVE TO STAY IN OMAHA. AND I'D SAY, GOOD ENOUGH, PARTNER, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU HERE. AND HE WOULD TELL ME, BUT IF YOU DON'T GIVE US A TAX BREAK, WE'RE OUT OF HERE. I'D SAY, SO LONG, IT'S BEEN GOOD TO KNOW YOU; SO LONG, BEEN GOOD TO KNOW YOU. THAT'S WHAT THEY NEED TO HEAR. BUT INSTEAD, THEY TURN US INTO LAP DOGS. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND BY LAP, I DON'T MEAN A LITTLE DOG THAT SITS ON YOUR LAP WHEN YOU'RE IN A CHAIR, BUT I MEAN ONE LAPPING WITH ITS TONGUE. THAT'S WHY THEY HAVE NO RESPECT FOR THIS LEGISLATURE. WHY DO YOU THINK I KEEP CHIDING YOU ALL FOR TALKING ABOUT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND DOING NOTHING. THIS IS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE VOTE THAT YOU CAN TAKE. SO AFTER ALL OF THE TALK, AFTER THE VIRTUAL RHAPSODIZING BY SENATOR MURANTE, YOU ALL ARE GOING TO GIVE WOODMEN OF THE WORLD WHAT THEY WANT. AND THAT'S WHY I SAY, ALL OF YOUR TALK IS AS SHAKESPEARE SAID, FULL OF SOUND AND FURY, SIGNIFYING NOTHING. JUST TALK. BUT IF TALK IS WHAT GIVES YOU WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR OUT OF LIFE, THEN YOU MAKE IT VERY EASY TO SATISFY YOU. DON'T GIVE THIS AWAY. WOODMEN OF THE WORLD HAS DONE NOTHING TO ENTITLE IT TO THIS KIND OF SPECIAL TREATMENT TO THE DEROGATION OF EVERYBODY ELSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO GET A TAX BREAK AND MAY BE FAR MORE WORTHY OF IT. [LB414]

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB414]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD EVENING, COLLEAGUES, AGAIN. WHAT IS THE SECRET TO TAX REFORM? WHAT IS MY SECRET FOR TAX REFORM? AND SINCE EVERYBODY ELSE HAS GIVEN ME THE BENEFIT OF THEIR COLLECTIVE WISDOM, I THOUGHT I'D PUT IN MY TWO BITS. AND I THINK THE BEST SECRET FOR TAX REFORM IS MAKING SMALL STEPS. BUT THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE HAVE INDICATED AN INCREASE OF 3.1 PERCENT. WHILE IT MAY BE MORE THAN INFLATION, IT'S MUCH LESS THAN SOME OF THE INCREASES THAT WE'VE SEEN IN THE STATE BUDGET. SO, I THINK WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS. AND OVER TIME, WE CAN LOOK AT SOME OF THE OTHER BILLS THAT PERHAPS WILL REDUCE THINGS IN SMALL STAGES. LB357 WOULD MAKE A SMALL STEP AND MAYBE WE SIMPLY NEED TO HEAD IN THAT DIRECTION, SMALL STEPS AND SMALL INCREASES IN THE BUDGET. SO, OVER TIME, THOSE MARGINAL INCREASES OR DECREASES, I THINK CAN HELP US REIN IN SOME OF THESE HIGH TAXES THAT I THINK WE HAVE IN NEBRASKA. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB414 LB357]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR MOTION TO BRACKET. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, REFERRING TO A BRUTAL BLOOD SPORT, BULLFIGHTING, WE'RE APPROACHING THE MOMENT OF TRUTH. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? THIS IS A VOTE AND WE CAN EITHER GIVE SUBSTANCE TO ALL OF THOSE WORDS THAT HAVE BEEN UTTERED TODAY AND IN DAYS BEFORE THIS DAY, OR EVERYBODY CAN ROLL OVER AND MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ALL THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IS A LOT OF TALK. AS I SAID EARLIER, THEY'LL TAKE THEIR AXES TO PROPERTY TAXES AND THEN THEY WALK AND TALK AND TALK. AND WE'VE HAD A LOT OF TALK TODAY. SENATOR MURANTE MENTIONED HOW GOOD THAT TALK MADE HIM FEEL. JUST TALK. BUT WOODMEN OF THE WORLD DOES NOT WANT JUST TALK. WOODMEN OF THE WORLD WANTS TO TURN THIS LEGISLATURE INTO A LITTLE BOOTLICKING PUPPY DOG WHO RUNS UP BEHIND LOOKING FOR A

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

DOGGY TREAT. AND WHEN SOMEBODY TREATS A DOGGY LIKE THAT, THEY GET ON THE WRONG SIDE OF ME. SO, I DON'T WANT TO SEE THE LEGISLATURE TREATED LIKE THAT. BUT I HAVE TO AMEND THAT, SENATOR SCHNOOR, AND SAY, I DON'T WANT TO SEE THE LEGISLATURE ALLOW ITSELF TO BE TREATED LIKE THAT. NOBODY CAN DO TO US WHAT WE DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO DO. WOODMEN OF THE WORLD HAS WATCHED THE PROSECUTORS WRAP THIS LEGISLATURE AROUND THEIR FINGER AND SAY, WE DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THESE HEARINGS. WE DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING. WE'LL WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE, THEN WE'LL GIVE YOU YOUR ORDERS AND YOU'D BETTER WALK. AND HERE'S THE CONTEMPT THEY HAVE FOR THIS LEGISLATURE. THE OLD CLICHE USUALLY SAYS, WHEN I SAY JUMP, YOU ASK HOW HIGH. THAT'S NOT WOODMEN OF THE WORLD. WHEN WOODMEN OF THE WORLD SAYS JUMP, YOU JUMP AND ASK, BOSS, IS THIS HIGH ENOUGH? YOU DO THE JUMPING. YOU JUMP THROUGH THE HOOP. WHY DO YOU THINK EVERYBODY RIDICULES LEGISLATURES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY? MAKE THE LEGISLATURE THE BUTT OF EVERY IMAGINABLE JOKE BECAUSE COLLECTIVELY, LEGISLATURES CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN SUCH A WAY THAT THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE WORTHY OF. ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, A LOT OF PROMISES. ON THE FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATURE, A LOT OF TALK ABOUT REPRESENTING THE CONSTITUENTS. A LOT OF TALK ABOUT NOT BEING DICTATED TO AND OWNED BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. THEN THE FIRST ONE THAT COMES ALONG THIS SESSION, YOU CAN'T GET BILLS ON PROPERTY TAXES OUT OF THE COMMITTEE, AND THIS BILL GETS OUT HERE AND IT'S ON ITS WAY TO FINAL READING. I'M DOING ALL THAT I CAN DO, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE SLEEP OVER THIS. AS I SAID EARLIER IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, SOMEBODY SAID, OH, THAT'S JUST NEBRASKA. ALL I'LL DO IS GIVE THAT DISMISSIVE HAND GESTURE AND SAY THAT'S JUST THE LEGISLATURE. A LOT OF TALK AND THAT'S ALL. LIKE THAT WIZARD OF OZ. THE SCREEN WITH THE PUFFS OF SMOKE, THE LOUD MAGNIFIED VOICE IN THE CURTAINS, AND THE BIG FACE THUNDERING AND INTIMIDATING EVERYBODY, THEN THE LITTLE DOG TOTO WENT AND PULLED THE CURTAIN AND THEY SAW THIS LITTLE DRIED-UP MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN. AND THEY SAID, THAT'S WHAT HAS HAD US TERRIFIED ALL THIS TIME. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LEGISLATURE. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND WOODMEN OF THE WORLD, OBVIOUSLY, DOES WELL WHAT THEY DO IN INSURANCE AND THEY DO WELL WHAT THEY DO WHEN IT COMES TO INTIMIDATING POLITICIANS. AND I GIVE CREDIT TO ANYBODY WHO DOES WELL, WHAT THEY DO. THERE'S A GUY, HIS LAST NAME IS SHIRER, AND HE WROTE ABOUT THE NAZIS. AND HE REFERRED TO HITLER AS THE LAST GREAT

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CONQUEROR. HE PUT "GREAT" IN FRONT OF HITLER'S NAME. NOT AS A MORAL JUDGMENT, BUT AS A RECOGNITION OF HOW HE DID SO WELL WHAT HE DID. SO, I GIVE WOODMEN OF THE WORLD CREDIT. AND YOU KNOW WHAT THEIR INITIALS ARE IF YOU TURN IT INTO AN ACRONYM? WOW. BUT IF YOU TURN IT UPSIDE DOWN, THEN IT'S MOM. MOM, DON'T WHIP ME. DON'T... [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OH, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WOULD ASK FOR A CALL OF THE HOUSE AND A ROLL CALL VOTE [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION, SHALL THE HOUSE COME UNDER CALL? THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB414]

CLERK: 32 AYES, 0 NAYS TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. THOSE UNEXCUSED SENATORS OUTSIDE OF THE CHAMBER PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR DAVIS, CHECK IN, PLEASE. SENATOR GROENE, PLEASE CHECK IN. THANK YOU. SENATOR SCHILZ AND SENATOR...THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. SENATOR KINTNER, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR KINTNER, PLEASE RETURN TO CHAMBER. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. EVERYONE IS ACCOUNTED FOR. I UNDERSTAND YOU WANT A ROLL CALL VOTE, REGULAR ORDER. [LB414]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: MR. CLERK. [LB414]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1299-1300.) 13 AYES, 30 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE MOTION TO BRACKET. [LB414]

SENATOR KRIST: THE MOTION TO BRACKET FAILS. MR. CLERK. RAISE THE CALL, PLEASE. [LB414]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
April 28, 2015

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SOME ITEMS. AMENDMENTS TO BE PRINTED: SENATOR BOLZ TO LB591, SENATOR McCOLLISTER TO LB104, SENATOR BOLZ, LB243A, SENATOR KUEHN LB599, CRAWFORD AND HANSEN TO LB599, SENATOR DAVIS TO LB414. SENATOR GARRETT OFFERS LR209, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WILL BE LAID OVER. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1300-1305.) [LB591 LB104 LB243A LB599 LB414 LR209]

MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE A PRIORITY MOTION. SENATOR CRAIGHEAD WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN THE BODY UNTIL WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, AT 9:00 A.M.

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. WE ARE ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING AT 9:00.