

in the state's income tax law, either by a rate increase or by a change in the organic law, to at least make certain that this state doesn't lose dollars on the income tax side as a result of the federal changes, as a result of the 1986 federal changes. This bill, once it's passed, is the signal that you have collectively adopted that policy. It is a good policy. You should adopt it. The withholding rates really could not, in good conscience, be increased by the Director of the Department of Revenue in the absence of our own action because he has no triggering event to cause him to increase the withholding rates. There has been no new law passed. There is nothing out there that would cause him to do it, and, in fact, some aggrieved taxpayer could claim that the action was arbitrary and capricious. So it is necessary for the Legislature to take this step. And with that I commend to you the committee amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You have heard the closing remarks on the committee amendment. The question is, shall the amendment be adopted? All in favor say aye...vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendment is adopted. Senator Johnson, on LB 284, as amended.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, we have had a very animated discussion about the committee amendment. The committee amendment becomes the bill. I really can't contribute at all to the discussion. I will make one small remark to Senator Abboud. He is quite concerned that this Legislature is not reacting fast enough to the agonizing cries of corporate leaders in Omaha for some help from this state. He is fearful that if we don't use this bill as a vehicle to do that kind of work, that we will have missed a great opportunity to take the pain away from their sufferings, but I can tell you that the Orr administration is engaged in very deliberate and delicate conversations with Omaha's corporate leaders to determine what needs to be done, what could be done prudently, what would be unreasonable to do, and so on, and that I believe, based on my many conversations with both the Orr administration and with the corporate leaders, that for this Legislature to act precipitously or in haste on any kind of special benefit bill for the Omaha corporate community would, frankly, have a deleterious effect on the kind of negotiations that currently are occurring. It is sort of