

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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consider...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...just a minuscule part of the steps that I hope we could take as a body down the road over the next year or two. And that's the reason I delayed the study for this bill, so that this committee can meet. And I fully expect to be back here next year with some fine tuning, if you will, of this bill, as well as an understanding of what best can be done and what kind of a fiscal impact we have, because I don't intend to sell you a pig in a poke, but I have no idea. I'll repeat what North Dakota has: 100 percent income tax deduction for all income realized from either land sale or a rental arrangement with a beginning farmer. They had...23 claimed it in '97, and 13 in '96. I don't have the total numbers of farms in North Dakota, but I'd guess it's probably a third of ours. The cost of that, as I said, was just under a half a million dollars tax loss. I know this is a beginning, and I appreciate those of you that feel that you're sticking your neck out and still are willing to vote green. I know that. But I promise you...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...I will tune it to the extent necessary to make successful. Thanks.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I am going to support the Wehrbein bill, despite some of the doubts that have been voiced by others, notably Senator Bromm. I don't know how much good this is going to do. The bill that I would like to vote for is not on this floor, and that is a bill introduced by Senator Jones that would more directly aid the beginning farmer. And he's spoken about that bill a number of times. The impediment to that bill is an opinion that it is unconstitutional, because of Initiative 300. I regard Initiative 300 as an artificial restraint on the economic development of the state of Nebraska. And the results, I believe, of Initiative 300...and I know that there are people here in this body who will...who support Initiative 300