

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

[LB117 LB194 LB258 LB299 LB439 LB439A LB449 LB496 LB497 LB518 LB596 LB629
LB670 LB682 LB701 LB708 LB714 LB717 LB729 LB731A LB731 LB732 LB733 LB738A
LB738 LB741 LB742 LB745 LB749 LB751 LB760 LB766 LB768 LB776 LB786 LB791
LB793 LB799 LB803 LB807A LB807 LB812 LB815 LB827 LB840 LB841 LB845 LB847
LB848 LB859 LB861 LB865 LB873 LB874 LB880 LB885 LB889 LB901 LB902 LB903
LB906 LB909 LB923 LB940A LB940 LB953 LB957 LB982 LB983 LB989 LB990 LB990A
LB994 LB994A LB998 LB1000 LB1003 LB1005 LB1008 LB1009 LB1012 LB1030 LB1034
LB1034A LB1036 LB1038 LB1040 LB1052 LB1065 LB1065A LB1070 LB1081A LB1081
LB1089 LB1090A LB1090 LB1091 LB1098 LB1110 LB1119 LB1120 LB1121 LB1121A
LB1132 LR266 LR296 LR471 LR477 LR478 LR479 LR480 LR481 LR483 LR484 LR485
LR486 LR487 LR488 LR489 LR490 LR491 LR492 LR493 LR494 LR495 LR496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the sixtieth day of the One Hundred Fifth Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Williams. Please rise.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Williams. I call to order the sixtieth day of the One Hundred Fifth Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, sir. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: There are. Mr. President, I have a series of announcements and messages. Communication from the Governor. (Read re: LB497, LB629, LB682, LB701, LB708, LB717, LB732, LB733, LB742, LB749, LB766, LB786, LB799, LB812, LB815, LB840, LB847, LB848, LB859, LB885, and LB889.) A second communications, Mr. President, to the Clerk (Read re: LB741, LB760, LB903, LB909, LB940, LB940A, LB1008, LB1091). A third communication (Read re: LB1119). A fourth communication (Read re: LB258, LB439, LB439A,

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

LB596, LB714, LB738, LB738A, LB745, LB751, LB776, LB803, LB827, LB841, LB861, LB865, LB901, LB902, LB906, LB923, LB982, LB983, LB990, LB990A, LB994, LB994A, LB1000, LB1003, LB1009, LB1012, LB1030, LB1036, LB1038, LB1040, LB1052, LB1070, LB1081, LB1081A, LB1089, LB1090, LB1090A, LB1098, LB1110, LB1121, LB1132). Mr. President, a further communication from the Governor. (Read re: LB1121A.) LR296 has been reported as correctly engrossed, or enrolled, excuse me. Mr. President, a series of agency reports received and acknowledged, available for member review on the legislative Web site. And, finally, the lobby report, as required by state law. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 1607-1611.) [LB497 LB629 LB682 LB701 LB708 LB717 LB732 LB733 LB742 LB749 LB766 LB786 LB799 LB812 LB815 LB840 LB847 LB848 LB859 LB885 LB889 LB741 LB760 LB903 LB909 LB940 LB940A LB1008 LB1091 LB1119 LB258 LB439 LB439A LB596 LB714 LB738 LB738A LB745 LB751 LB776 LB803 LB827 LB841 LB861 LB865 LB901 LB902 LB906 LB923 LB982 LB983 LB990 LB990A LB994 LB994A LB1000 LB1003 LB1009 LB1012 LB1030 LB1036 LB1038 LB1040 LB1052 LB1070 LB1081 LB1081A LB1089 LB1090 LB1090A LB1098 LB1110 LB1121 LB1132 LB1121A LR296]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following legislative resolutions: LR266, LR296, LR477, LR478, LR479, LR480, LR481, LR483, LR484, LR485, LR486, LR487, LR488, LR489, LR490, LR491, LR492, LR493, LR494, LR495 and LR496. (Doctor of the day introduced.) Members, we're going to move right into Final Reading. If you could please be at your desks. I apologize, we have some confirmation reports first. Mr. Clerk, for the first confirmation report. [LR266 LR296 LR477 LR478 LR479 LR480 LR481 LR483 LR484 LR485 LR486 LR487 LR488 LR489 LR490 LR491 LR492 LR493 LR494 LR495 LR496]

CLERK: Mr. President, the Education Committee reports on two appointments to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission. (Legislative Journal page 1145.)

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Groene, you're recognized to open on your first confirmation report.

SENATOR GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. The first two appointments started in Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission. The Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission was created by the Education Television Act adopted by the 1963 Legislature. In 1984 the Legislature changed the commission's name and broadened its scope to include all educational telecommunications. The commission promotes and provides noncommercial, educational telecommunications out in Nebraska. This commission pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 79-1315 has as members, the commissioner of education, the president of the University of Nebraska or his designee, a representative of the state colleges, a representative of

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

the community colleges, a representative of private education institutions in Nebraska, and six members of the general public not affiliated with any of these institutions. The first appointment is Nicholas Baxter from Omaha, Nebraska. This is a first-time appointment for Mr. Baxter who will serve as a member of the general public. Mr. Baxter received his bachelor of law degree from the University of Hull in England before ultimately immigrating to the United States and settling with his Nebraska-born wife in Omaha. Mr. Baxter is very involved with multiple civic and community groups, and while this would be his first term on the NET Commission, he has served as board member of the Nebraska Public TV Foundation from 2013 to 2018, and as chair from 2015 to 2017. The Education Committee voted 8-0 to recommend confirmation of this nomination. The second appointment is Fred Ohles from Lincoln, Nebraska. This is a reappointment as he has served on the commission since 2011, was elected as vice chair in 2016, and chair in 2017. Dr. Ohles is the president of Nebraska Wesleyan University and will serve on the NET Commission as the representative of private education institution. Dr. Ohles received his bachelor's degree from Charlton College in Minnesota and his doctorate degree from Brandeis University in Massachusetts. Dr. Ohles impressed the Education Committee with his dedication to academic freedom in having NET providing quality programming. The Education Committee voted 8-0 to recommend confirmation of the nomination. Please vote green on the appointments of Nicholas Baxter and Fred Ohles.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Groene. Is there any discussion on the confirmation report? Seeing none, Senator Groene, you're recognized to close on the confirmation report. He waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Education Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: (Record vote, Legislative Journal page 1612.) 47 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the report.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The report is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a second report from the Education Committee involving the appointment of Paul Von Behren to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. (Legislative Journal page 1145.)

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Groene, you're recognized to open on your second confirmation report.

SENATOR GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. The last nomination is to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Nebraskans amended the State Constitution in 1990

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

to create a new Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, would increase duties and responsibilities. Those duties and responsibilities now include creating and putting into action a comprehensive statewide plan to guide Nebraska's higher education system, helping low-income Nebraska students attend college by awarding need-based financial aid, and developing state financial aid strategies, and administering the Community College Gap Assistance Program which offers financial aid to students who want to work in high-need fields. Ensures the efficient use of taxpayer funds by approving or disapproving postsecondary construction projects that rely on tax funds. It proves or disapproves academic programs based on specific criteria. Assembling and analyzing statewide data in publishing reports tied to the state's higher education goals. Protecting Nebraska students who attend for-profit institutions in the state by administering the Guaranty Recovery Cash Fund. Administering state appropriations to Nebraska's six community colleges, helping teachers in underserved populations through the administration of federal education grants. Saving Nebraska colleges and universities thousands of dollars through the administration of nationwide distance-learning agreements on behalf of the state. The appointment is Dr. Paul Von Behren from Ames, Nebraska. He is a retired veterinarian. He received his MBA from the University of Nebraska, Omaha, and his doctorate from veterinary medicine from Iowa State University. Dr. Von Behren has a background in agriculture and an interest in education having taught as financial adjunct instructor for Iowa Western Community College. He's active in his community, and has stated interest in leaving his community better than he found it for his children and grandchildren. The Education Committee voted 8-0 to recommend confirmation of this nomination. Please vote green on the appointment of Dr. Von Behren.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Groene. Is there any discussion on the confirmation report from the Education Committee? Seeing none, Senator Groene you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: (Record vote, Legislative Journal page 1613.) 47 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The confirmation report from the Education Committee is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next report I have is from the Natural Resources Committee involving the appointment of John Orr. (Legislative Journal page 1160.)

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Hughes, you're recognized to open on your confirmation report.

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

SENATOR HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I present for your approval the appointment of John Orr to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board. Mr. Orr came before the Natural Resources Committee on March 22nd. This is a new appointment for Mr. Orr as he is looking to represent District 1 on the board. Mr. Orr lives in Blair, Nebraska and works as a grain merchandiser in Omaha. He has worked in the grain merchandising and commodity business for over 34 years. Mr. Orr is also a hobby farmer on his 15 acres of land. His love of the outdoors spending his free time hunting, fishing, camping and boating have led him to the opportunity to see much of Nebraska's landscape. He belongs to several area groups that are credited with maintaining different trail systems for both runners and horseback riders. The Nebraska Environmental Trust was established in 1992 to conserve, enhance, and restore the natural environments of Nebraska. The committee advanced Mr. Orr's appointment by a 7-0-1 vote with one member absent. I ask for your confirmation of John Orr to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hughes. Is there any discussion of the confirmation report from the Natural Resources Committee? Seeing none, Senator Hughes, you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Natural Resources Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: (Record vote, Legislative Journal page 1613.) 45 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The confirmation report from the Natural Resources Committee is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports on the appointment of Jeanna Stavas to the Nebraska Tourism Commission. (Legislative Journal page 1528.)

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Murante, you're recognized to open on your confirmation report.

SENATOR MURANTE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, good afternoon. On April 10th, the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee unanimously approved the appointment of Jeanna Stavas to the Nebraska Tourism Commission. Ms. Stavas has been very involved in both the state and local tourism industries. Her experiences and background in the industry, and the past 12 years operating a bed and breakfast in a rural area, have provided her a unique knowledge base that will serve Nebraska's tourism industry well. I have full confidence that she will serve our state tremendously as a member of the Nebraska Tourism Commission and I ask for your support of her appointment. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Murante. Is there any discussion of the report? Seeing none, Senator Murante waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Government Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: (Record vote, Legislative Journal page 1614.) 44 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to adopt the report.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Mr. Clerk. The confirmation report is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the last report is by the Government Committee on the appointment of Kate Sullivan to the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. (Legislative Journal page 1528.)

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Murante, you're recognized to open on the second confirmation report from the Government Committee.

SENATOR MURANTE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, good afternoon. On April 10th, the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee unanimously approved former State Senator Kate Sullivan, to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, and she was appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts. Many of us remember our time having served with Senator Sullivan in this body. Senator Sullivan currently serves as vice president of Blue Stream Beef, Inc., and on the Cedar Rapids State Bank's board of directors. I have a tremendous amount of respect for Senator Sullivan. I know that she will make a fine addition to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, and I would encourage your adoption and support of her appointment to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Murante. Is there any discussion on that report? Seeing none, Senator Murante waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Government Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: (Record vote, Legislative Journal pages 1614-1615.) 47 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The confirmation report is adopted. Senator Groene, for the purpose do you rise?

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

SENATOR GROENE: A point of personal privilege.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Please proceed.

SENATOR GROENE: Thank you. I wanted to make clear to the citizens of the state of Nebraska, my colleagues, about a couple issues I've had recently with Facebook. I do not have an account. Never will have an account. I've never been on Facebook. Recently I had a run-in with a Internet troll, and due to that, it's under investigation. A fake Web page was put up in my name, political Web page, where it inferred that I was a white supremacist, and other attacks. I contacted...we've contacted Facebook. It has been taken down. It is under investigation by the State Patrol. My family has been threatened by violence. It is under investigation. I'm going to stand up to those who want to silence free speech and political debate. You will be informed as the investigation continues. Second. On a political Web site of a candidate my image was used, an inference was made that I support that candidate for office...for statewide office. That is not true. I have supported Governor Ricketts in the past, and I will continue to support him for Governor of the state of Nebraska. He's a political ally and a friend. We differ on issues, but the man is honest, and he has always kept his word to me, which I cannot say for others. So if you've seen my image on a political Web site, my permission was not given. That is what I want to tell the state of Nebraska. We need to police the Internet. I am firmly going to pursue that. How someone can put and open a Web site or a Facebook in your name has to stop. There has to be some accountability. So anyway, if you've seen those posts, and you've seen the dialogue going back between the Internet troll, there's action being taken. Thank you, colleagues, for giving me this moment in time.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Groene. Members, we'll now move to Final Reading, if you could please be at your desks. Members, if you could please be at your desk so we can begin Final Reading. We'll now begin. The first bill is LB1005E. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing of the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB1005]

CLERK: 39 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB1005]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB1005]

CLERK: (Read title of LB1005.) [LB1005]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1005E pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB1005]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1616.) 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused and not voting. [LB1005]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB1005E passes with the emergency clause attached. Our next bill is LB117. [LB1005 LB117]

CLERK: (Read LB117 on Final Reading.) [LB117]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB117 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB117]

(Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1616-1617.) 35 ayes, 13 nays, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB117]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB117 passes. We'll now proceed to LB194. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB117 LB194]

CLERK: 37 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB194]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB194]

CLERK: (Read title of LB194.) [LB194]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB194 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB194]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1617-1618.) 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the passage of LB194. [LB194]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB194 passes. We'll now proceed to LB299. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing of the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB194 LB299]

CLERK: 36 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB299]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB299]

CLERK: (Read title of LB299.) [LB299]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB299 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB299]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1618-1619.) 45 ayes, 1 nay, 3 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB299]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB299 passes. We'll now proceed to LB449. [LB299 LB449]

CLERK: (Read LB449 on Final Reading.) [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB449 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB449]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1619-1620.) 26 ayes, 13 nays, 10 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB449]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB449 passes. We'll now proceed to LB496. [LB449 LB496]

CLERK: Mr. President, I have motions on the desk. Before I begin, Senator Friesen, I had AM1413 with a note you wish to withdraw. Senator Williams likewise with AM2816. Mr. President, Senator Erdman would move to return the bill to Select File for specific amendment. That amendment being to strike the enacting clause. (FA165, Legislative Journal page 1620.) [LB496]

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Erdman, you're recognized to open on your motion. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Good afternoon. Before I begin, I want to say an important Happy Birthday to two of my granddaughters. Tynleigh and Faith are both having a birthday today. Tynleigh is going to be four...is four, and Faith is two. Happy Birthday. Now to the business at hand, LB496. We talked about this bill before. My opinion has not changed and I'm sure that's not a surprise to anyone here. I've read this bill over in the last four or five days several times trying to get my hands around, and my mind around, why it is always the government's obligation to solve every issue and problem that anybody has anywhere. I looked up the amount of TIF financing...I looked up the amount that TIF eliminates from property tax in Douglas County, the amount of revenue that the schools, the city, the county and anyone else who collects property tax in Douglas County on an annual basis is nearly \$37 million. So what happens in Douglas County when their local effort for their school is reduced because of TIF, and we, the Nebraska citizens make up the difference with state aid. TIF is a tax abatement. No doubt about it. TIF is a tax abatement. And so when you start these TIF projects, especially when you use it for construction for housing, then you're going to increase the amount of TIF projects you have, and you're going to increase the amount of revenue that is lost by your school district in your county and city. So if you came here or you are here and your opinion is you think our property tax are too high and you vote for LB496, guess what. You just voted to raise property tax. That's exactly what this bill does. It raises property tax. If we build one house with TIF financing, we will build them all that way. In Douglas County right now, there's \$24 million...excuse me, there's \$9 million that's exempt because of TIF on residential, and that's just for the infrastructure. So if we go to construction, just think what it will cost you. And I know this is the last day and I'm standing in the way of you going home, I understand that. Similar things have happened, a couple weeks ago we had a steak feed. We passed three bills in about 15 minutes because we all wanted to go eat steak. And so we may very well vote today against the Erdman amendment, FA165, so we can go home. I understand that. But as I read the bill and I get to the part where it talks about the definition, what workforce housing is, let me read the first definition. Housing that meets the needs of today's working families. That is really, really specific, you understand? You can do about whatever you want, workforce housing. Wow, that's amazing. It goes on to say later on down in the bill, it says that prior to approving a redevelopment project to carry out the construction of work force housing, the governing body, which would be the city council, they receive a housing study that's no older than 24 months. What I need to do is start a firm that writes housing studies. I think that's going to be very helpful because when all these communities start building these TIF projects, someone needs to write these reports, and I can help them with that. It goes on to say, number two, in that section, prepare an incentive plan for construction of housing in the municipality targeted to house existing and new workers. I don't know how that works. They need to hold a public hearing on the incentive plan to make sure the public knows about it. But one of the most interesting things down at the bottom of that section, it says, this will not result in the unjust enrichment of any

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

individual or company. I don't know about you, but I read this, and I don't find any place in this statute that defines what enrichment of an individual is. Who makes that decision whether it's enrichment or not? I don't know. I don't know. So I wonder if Senator Stinner would yield to a few questions. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Stinner, would you yield, please? [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: Yes, I will. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Senator Stinner, thank you. Would you walk through with me a little bit...you did the last time we were on the mike and you talked about how we arrive at what a TIF bond will be on an individual house, say a \$275,000 house. Would you go through that again? [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: There may be a gap between the cost of building that home which could be up to two hundred fifty...or \$275,000, and a person's ability to pay. So if you go through an analysis of somebody that's making combined income, say of \$80,000, two and a half times would be a way of looking at that, so that takes you up to about two something. That gap then would be what could be used for that...for the difference between what they could pay versus what they're eligible to have a mortgage for, or what that house is selling for versus what the mortgage could be for. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. So in that example, two and a half times that \$80,000 would be what number, and you would subtract that from the \$275,000 to get the TIF bond? [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: Well, you would have to...you'd probably would not be qualified to buy a \$275,000 because there would be a \$200,000 mortgage. You would have to do the computation to see what the gap that you would qualify. So if the \$275,000, let's just take it to \$200,000 because it's rounder numbers, that would be 2 percent generally is the levy lien which is \$4,000; \$4,000 times 15 years is a number. But you have to also consider that you have to pay interest on that outlay, so you would probably be somewhere in the \$40,000, so they would qualify probably for a \$240,000 house using specifically TIF. Now, a lot of people do have some down payment, so if they would have a down payment of \$20,000, \$30,000 for that house buyer at \$275,000, then you could fill that gap with a down payment with TIF and close the cost and income gap that you deal with. [LB496]

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. Thank you. So where is it in the bill that says when we build this workforce house that the person building it has to reduce the price? They could sell the house for \$275,000, is that correct? [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: They do not have to reduce the house. I mean, the builder is somebody who builds a spec home, and you could design this program also to incent a builder to come in and build five homes. And depending on how you want to incent that builder, either picking up the interest cost of carrying or something along those lines, you could develop over four, five, six homes depending on what you want to do locally. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: All right. So that person that's building it wouldn't have to necessarily discount the house. So then how do we make sure, Senator Stinner, how do we make sure that a person who's going to work in the community buys it. Say an old guy like me that's retired, comes and wants to move to a community just because my grandkids live there, can I buy one of these houses? [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: It would depend on how you put the agreement together for the TIF homes and the workforce homes. That is crafted locally, and one could say it just has to be a workforce house that would fill that workforce gap. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: So then, you could put the house on the market and it would be restricted to somebody who's going to work there and not an old guy like me, right? [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: You could. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. So the next question I have is, it says here they're going to prepare an incentive plan. What would an incentive plan look like? How would they do the...the city council, how would they do that? [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: One minute. [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: The city council would conduct this housing study and determine that they have several homes in which they have to build in order to fulfill their requirements. So, in order to get the price down relative to the cost per square footage, you would build four or five homes. So right today, building one home, it's \$200 a square foot. Could I have a gavel, please? It's \$200 a square foot but in talking to builders if they had four or five homes to build in a row then they could do a volume discount. They could get their artisans to actually push their cost

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

down, whether it be electricians, because they'd be working for a period of time. So that draws that cost of the house down, and that's some of the incentives. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. I'm about out of time. I will ask more questions next time. Thank you. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senators Erdman and Stinner. Senator Friesen, you're recognized. [LB496]

SENATOR FRIESEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. You know, we've discussed this bill before, and again I want to point out some things that the impact it has on school funding, and when you build subdivisions that bring in more kids, and for the next 15 years that school will see no extra funding. So to me, it does look like a property tax increase in some areas of the state, in other areas it just qualifies them for more state aid. Again when we talk about workforce housing, you know, when I look at the small communities around, there's not too many houses in a small community that cost \$275,000. Probably 10 percent of our homes in our area are \$275,000 and up. Workforce housing to me is when you're trying to get a starter home going, or get somebody into the community to build your workforce up and a starter home, so to speak. And when we're talking about a \$275,000 home, that to me is not a workforce development home, it's a starter home. And we need to focus a little bit more on that, and when you look at the dollars involved here and what this is going to do to housing markets in some areas where you could get a large developer to come in and build a large subdivision in an area, and then those neighboring communities, the bedroom communities that surround that town are trying to compete as a bedroom community with the larger cities, and so it drives down the cost of their housing too. So they're going to have to fall in line, and also TIF, their housing developments, and it just trickles on down, and then you do have an impact on school funding. And if it didn't have an impact on school funding, why would LPS and Lincoln have an agreement here not to use TIF on residential subdivision development? It does have an impact, and I think it has a negative impact. And when we want to talk about economic development in the rural areas, let's talk about wages. Let's talk about maybe lowering the property tax on that home so that they can afford to have that home. Let's talk about raising the wages in those areas where businesses can pay a better level of wages so they can afford a home. Once we go down the line of subsidizing everything that someone needs, we are almost encouraging the pay level to stay lower. To me with our low unemployment rate, our wages should be climbing, and I think they could be on the verge of doing that. When you look in all areas of the state there's a demand for workers. And to me the first question I ask is, if you're willing to raise your wages, could you attract people to move to town? And they all kind of nod their heads and say, well, yeah, I suppose. Well, then quit complaining and raise your wages. Bring them in. Go to job fairs. There's lots of programs out there to bring in people. And if we're going to go and start subsidizing everything that someone needs, there's no encouragement there for businesses to raise their wages. It's

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

competition. That's the worker...it's in the worker's benefit to have this stiff competition. It drives up wages. If you're a good employee and another business in town needs workers, and they want to raise their wages, you have an opportunity to jump over and take a pretty good pay increase and start a new career. But if you subsidize housing to bring in so that you can hold your wages down, there's no incentive for that employer to have to raise his wages. I just keep paying them the same substandard level and you'll find in many of the rural communities you have to work 60 hours a week in order to get a good, livable wage. We are underemployed. We're not unemployed. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: One minute. [LB496]

SENATOR FRIESEN: This competition, I think, is good, and to me to subsidize housing costs when we could instead do property tax relief on that house, and that would go directly to the owner of that home, that is where we should focus, and not on whether or not we can subsidize the cost of building a home. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Friesen. Senator Williams. [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon, and I will certainly be brief this afternoon because I think we owe that to those retiring senators today. I want to just remind people that LB496 was heard in committee and there was no opposition testimony. I want to repeat that. No opposition testimony, and it was voted out of committee with no dissenting votes. And if there is one thing, I think it is our responsibility to do, it's to create an environment for growth in our state. We understand quickly how important workforce housing is and how that is the number-one obstacle to growing, in particular, our rural areas. We talked last week about LB518 and how good that grant program has been to this point and that there's over 21 applications for that, including areas of senators that are currently talking in opposition to this. Just want people to be sure they understand TIF because there is so much misunderstanding. Just flat, you can't take away something that a school district doesn't have. Again, you can't take away taxes that they don't have. The original tax on the property before the development, whatever that amount of tax is, continues to go to the taxing entity even if the project is subject to a redevelopment plan, the public hearing, and eventually the use of tax increment financing. So if there's a tax of \$1,000 on a property going to the local school district and you do a TIF project on that piece of real estate, that thousand dollars continues to go to the school. It's only the increment, the increase, and remember we passed LB874 this year to tighten up the "but for" test, so these developments, the redevelopment process requires the hearing. It requires the documentation of that "but for" example. So I would hope at this stage of the debate we've been through this, that we're now on Final Reading that you would vote red on Senator Erdman's floor

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

amendment and get to the business of growing our state by passing LB496. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB496 LB518 LB874]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Williams. Senator Groene. [LB496]

SENATOR GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I have been involved in TIF, 20 years, 15. I've followed it, I've followed its history. During my four years in the Legislature, LB496 is the largest tax increase I have seen. Yes, it is a tax increase. I passed out a handout for you to explain to you what happens. Before anybody tells you that that didn't exist, I ask you a simple question. Why is Omaha's city budget and Douglas County's budgets bigger than Lincoln's and Lancaster Counties? Why is Lancaster County's city budget and county budgets bigger than Hall County and Grand Island's? Why is Hall County's budget bigger than, and Grand Island's bigger than North Platte and Lincoln County? Spending by government is directly related to population. If you remove one home out of the mix, the other four have to make up the difference for the increased budget. You are raising property taxes on those people who pay their property taxes to the schools and the city and the county, especially in this instance when we do construction cost on residential. Somebody moves into the home, sends their kids to school, calls public safety. The cost of government goes up. This is a tax increase. And we are fixing a problem that is being fixed by free enterprise. All my contractors are busy building. None of them asked me. Did any contractors contact any of you that they wanted this? Did any homeowners or respective job applicant ask you about doing something about housing? I would venture to guess you heard from government employees, economic development people who want to make their life easier and pass out free goodies to contractors...not contractors, to real estate speculators, who will put their money up along with their bank, hire a contractor will not make anymore money to build the housing, and we are increasing profits for that speculator and the bank. That's all this is. This is special-interest legislation, period. Period. That's all this is. The good news is, this is another straw on a camel's back that will irate middle class, the farmers, who look at this, especially in rural Nebraska. Those schools are not equalized. So in the town they're going to build housing, and guess who's going to pay more taxes to support the school? The farmer. I am involved in this also because of the way it went down. I apologize, state of Nebraska. I assumed they had 19 votes. I was told within an hour of it that we had 19 votes to kill it. I was wrong. And then I watched...and I should have bracketed it. Then I watched the political maneuvering, legal, following the rules of jumping over Senator Friesen's amendment that had been there, on there since last year who had some good points. We never even got to discuss it. And then I watched an amendment, hot off the presses by Senator Wayne. I'm not criticizing him. He played the game. Had no hearing. We never found out the economic impact because we had no fiscal note, and within 30 minutes you passed it. It's going to have a huge, huge impact on state aid to education in the inner cities because those are equalized schools. Is that how we do economic policy here? People are watching and saying, we might have elected them, but they don't know economics. This is a very bad bill. [LB496]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: One minute. [LB496]

SENATOR GROENE: You heard that this came out of committee. The guts of the bill were two amendments that had no hearing, and I'll repeat. Common taxpayer is out working at his job. Who appeared at that hearing were those who will directly profit from LB496. And, of course, they were for it. You have one more opportunity to kill this and to send a message to the state of Nebraska, we will not raise your property taxes. We will not punch another hole in the boat of property taxes and let some out in a lifeboat who don't have to support our government and force the hard working people in Nebraska who pay their property taxes to pay more for public service in our schools. That's what we are doing with LB496 so some real estate speculators and a few bankers can increase the profit margin. Period. That's all this is. Thank you. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Erdman. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Senator Williams made a comment about a (inaudible) committee with no opposition. I'm here to tell you, I'm not on his committee and they didn't ask me. Okay? I'm opposed to it. Then he made a comment as I figured someone would, late in the day, time to go home. We need to listen to the retiring remarks of the senators who are going away. I don't care. Okay? And here's why I don't care, is we need to make good sound decisions for the state of Nebraska, not influenced by who is up next, or how much time it's going to take. We should be making decisions based on what's good for the state of Nebraska. And for you retiring senators, I'm sorry about that, but we need to make decisions based on what's right, not what's in good time. We're in a free market system. That's what we are to do here. So if in your area where they need housing, if they needed it and it was financially feasible, someone would build one. That's how it works. Supply and demand. I don't know of any place on this earth that someone says, you know what, McCook has a really nice house and he tells his family, we're going to buy that house and then we're going to move there to see if there is a job. That's not how it works. The job comes first. All right? So, Senator Williams' example is like buying...the same thing as buying a new combine. I mean, you can use whatever example you want, and one person said last week, you're entitled to your opinion, but you're not entitled to your own facts. The fact is, this is a property tax increase. I was wondering if Senator Williams would answer a question for me. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Williams, would you yield, please? [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Yes, I would. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Senator Williams, when a TIF project is done or put in place, how does one get an opportunity to buy those TIF bonds? [LB496]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Well, it's a variety of ways that I have seen. Generally they're offered back to the project people themselves in our community. We usually purchase them through the community itself through our economic development sales tax. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: So then... [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: And they're priced at zero interest, so it creates a larger amount of benefit to the project itself. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: You're telling me they buy these bonds at zero interest? [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Yes. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. So does your bank buy any TIF bonds? [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: No, we have never bought a TIF bond, nor do I know of any of our bonds that have been bought by banks. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. So do you know if TIF bonds that are...the interest rate is negotiated? [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Yes, it's negotiated. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: And is it greater than zero? [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: The highest one that I've seen in our community is one and a half percent. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. I've seen some that are seven. So if, in fact, a TIF bond interest is negotiated, is that tax free bonds? [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: I believe so, yes. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. So at what point, if you buy a bond for 6 percent that's tax free, what does that equal to if you had a bond that wasn't tax free? [LB496]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

SENATOR WILLIAMS: It would depend on the tax rate of the qualifying person. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: It could easily be 10 percent? [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: It would depend on the tax rate...the effective tax rate. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. All right. On line 28 on page 8 on the bill it says, this will not result in enrichment...unjust enrichment of any individual or company. Can you define that for me, what that means? [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: What the purpose of that language was is so that it would make clear that the developer would not, quote, feather their pocket, end quote... [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: One minute. [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: ...if they were involved with this kind of a project. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. So then, what's the penalty if he doesn't adhere to this statute? [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Well, that would...I don't know what you mean by a penalty. It would all be part of the negotiation of the redevelopment contract on the front end. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. What I mean by penalty is, what is the repercussions? A contractor comes in and it's an agreement that he's going to build a house and reduce the price by the TIF bond and he doesn't do that, he gets the full price, plus he gets the bond payment at 7 percent at tax free bonds, what is the penalty for that person who did that? [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: I don't know what you mean by receiving a bond payment plus 7 percent. Can you describe that for me? [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: I can. In our...some of our TIF bonds back home, they make a payment to the county, including 7 percent interest is included in principal and interest in their payment, and then the county turns around and writes a check back to the city, which writes it back to the holder of the bond and it's including the principal and the interest of 7 percent. That's how that works. [LB496]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

SENATOR WILLIAMS: And where was the developer in that mix? [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Time, Senators. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: The developer is the person who owns... [LB496]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Just enrichment of a developer and... [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Erdman and Senator Williams. Time has expired. Senator Halloran, you're recognized. [LB496]

SENATOR HALLORAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. I would like to yield my time to Senator Groene, please. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Halloran. Senator Groene, 5:00. [LB496]

SENATOR GROENE: Thank you. I have a pen in my office on the bulletin board that says, TIF hurts schools. It does. I sent an e-mail out to some of my friends earlier detailing some of my complaints on LB496 and one of the things I tried to make it simple was, LB496 is an opiate. It's covering a symptom of the real problem, it's high property taxes. That's what it is. We are making a statement by passing this bill by telling the people, property taxes are so burdensome, so burdensome on the homeowner that they can't afford to own a house that they have to...or build a house if they have to pay those property taxes. What does that tell you about every hard working person who has the American dream in Nebraska who goes out and buys a house? The problem, what I've been told by...not all bankers are for this. The bank I bank at, the president told me, he says, the problem is not the payment, it's the escrow account. It's 45, 50...40, 50 percent of the entire payment for some. And most of that is the property tax. But what do we do? We give them an opioid, the people, and tell them, here, but the problem is not everybody is getting the opioid. And actually the person who buys that TIF house is not getting an opioid either, he's going to pay more also because his taxes aren't funding the school or the county. They're going to the developer. And to clarify, to correct my friend, Senator Erdman, it's not the contractor. The contractor won't get rich on this. It's the developer. He's the guy with no calluses on his hands. Wouldn't know how to handle a hammer. He's the money guy. He buys an area, cornfield, he gets a TIF. He hires some contractors to build the houses for him and they sell them. The young teacher comes down, buys the house, pays his property taxes. Instead of being the community person this developer thinks he is or says he is, he doesn't help the school. Those taxes go to him. Go ahead and vote for this bill. If that's what you think Nebraska believes in, you go right ahead. I don't. We need to fix property taxes. We need to fix the burden of property

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

taxes and quit giving opioids thinking you're going to do some good. Don't convince yourself this is economic development. It is not. Every developer...every single contractor in the state is busy building homes. The free market will fill in the blank. This is about profits for a few individuals. And I will correct myself, the other day. Most bankers don't care about their small town bankers. Senator Clements is a banker. He voted against this. He's a community banker. Community person needs a loan, he'll work with them. That's a community banker. Do you know who is going to come into towns, mid-size towns? Not the local contractor, you're going to be put out of business. It's going to be big builders, corporate builders. Make a pact with the local developer and they'll come in and put tracts of houses in, ten or 15. They will put the small contractor out of business. But it's economic development. Is that what you were told by some of these government employees that are economic development directors, and a few city council people? Of course. If the schools could confiscate all the property taxes from the county and the cities, they would do it too. That is why TIF is supposed to be so narrowly defined. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: One minute. [LB496]

SENATOR GROENE: So narrowly defined to give the power to the cities that is supposed to be for urban renewal. I got a kick out of Senator Wayne's amendment. All he did was...it's redundant. That's what TIF is supposed to do. That Senator Wayne's amendment, is what TIF was meant to do. We are at a point now that we have to come up with an amendment to say, to tell the cities, this is what you're supposed to do, urban renewal. These homes won't be built in rural Nebraska in an old tract, homes won't be built. They'll be built in cornfields. Local contractors will be put out of business. It's happened a few places already. And by the way, you can TIF a home right now, as long as you use the money for public infrastructure. We're talking about construction costs. We're going to go 15 years. This is going to compound for 15 years before the first one comes off. Billions of dollars of property is going to be off the tax rolls before the first one comes back on. Thank you. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Erdman you're recognized. It's your third opportunity. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. A couple months ago I was reading an article...I think it was in the Omaha World-Herald that talked about some people in that Omaha development that built some houses with the TIF financing. And one of the things that I read that I thought was of interest, they interviewed one of the gentlemen and he said that in his purchase agreement there was a line that said he could never protest his property tax, never could protest the value of his property until the TIF bond had expired. And I thought about that. Why would that be? Well, the reason that is, is because if you have an incident like happened in Sidney, the major employer leaves your community and your housing values go down, then so do your

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

property tax and when your property tax go down, the bondholder gets a smaller payment. So if you have a 15-year bond and you're getting a certain amount a year to get paid off in 15 years, you may wind up not getting all of your payments because the time expired before your bond was paid. Interesting. So, I'm going to try to ask Senator Stinner a question. I wasn't too successful with Senator Williams. I was wondering if Senator Stinner would yield. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Stinner, would you yield, please? [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: Yes, I will. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Senator Stinner, you've always answered my questions when I ask, so let me ask this to you as I did to Senator Williams. On line 28 it says, this will not result in unjust enrichment of any individual or company. The question I asked Senator Williams, what happens if a contractor, or whoever is responsible for this, does something that enriches them, or what is the definition of enrichment? What is the penalty for that person? What happens? [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: Well, that clause was really put in for the builder, not to flip homes, but to have a long-term situation for the community so that if he does flip, then obviously the TIF has to be paid back. The builder obviously has to cure the loan or default on anything that is in the contract with the city, and you can design it fairly flexible. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. Where does it say that in the statute? Where does it say...? [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: That's undue enrichment, I think by definition. [LB496]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Oh, that's one, under enrichment, I see. And I don't see any place in the bill where there is a definition of enrichment. Maybe I missed it. I've read this bill four or five times and I don't see any place where it defines enrichment. So consequently, I don't know whether there's any penalty, do whatever you want, and consequently, whatever you can get away with is fine. And when the State Auditor's Office did a review of the TIF projects across the state several years ago, he chose 35. And as he was reviewing those 35, he discovered that there was only about 22 of them that even had enough information for him to audit. So I would assume the same thing is going to happen here so someone does something that enriches themselves and then what? What do they do to them? Absolutely nothing. This is a tax increase for the rest of those people that are paying property tax. That's exactly what this is. So when you vote for this, and you go home and you're up for reelection or election and the people say, are you for property tax relief? And you say yeah, yeah, I'm for property tax relief. Well, your vote on LB496 doesn't

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

show you're for property tax relief. So you say it with your mouth you're for property tax relief, but your vote showed that you were for it. You're for increasing property tax relief. How does that work? I don't know. So that was my third time. I'll end that part of my discussion and I'd appreciate a green vote on FA165. Thank you. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Stinner, you're recognized. [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: Well, I was not going to talk on this bill, I was going to let it run its course, but apparently we want to go to cloture. So, I guess if you say it...and I'm from the East Coast and I know this, loud enough and long enough, it has to be the truth. Well, it isn't. We've defined a problem, folks. And I'm going to take it to the Chamber. There was something I pulled together, October 19, 2016, about 600 people who filled out survey sheets, more than 85 percent marked yes to the question asking whether their communities or businesses faced a housing shortage. The biggest shortage, according to those surveyed, is moderately-priced housing for middle-income people. People want more of it. That's from the Chamber. And the Chamber has conducted these surveys over, I think, the last seven years is what I've heard, probably longer than that. But for the last seven years, workforce shortage, workforce housing has been their number one problem. So it is a defined problem and it's a defined problem across the state. And I think I'll take you back to the Panhandle housing study that was conducted May 5, 2017. It says here that...and this is the counties of Scotts Bluff, Morrill and Kimball Counties, not growing counties by any stretch of imagination, but typical of Nebraska. It says over the next five years, these three counties will need 777 additional housing units, 521 will need ownership. And Mr. Dickinson, who is a community and regional planner, indicated no matter what community you look at, workforce housing is the overriding thing. The only way companies can expand their sufficient housing...if there is sufficient housing for their employees. And, of course, I have housing studies, if you want to look at those housing studies. It says Norfolk in talking to their Chamber over last summer, there were 900 jobs available. They did a housing study, 762 new units were deemed to be needed. And then I have an article from Columbus and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce person responded that they needed over...there was over 1,200 jobs available in the Columbus area and there was an article about that in the Columbus paper and they talked about the need to have a \$200,000 house that they were not building. Market forces weren't handling it. And, of course, you've got the MBA Housing Task Force, 2016, that also cited shortage of housing. If you don't have housing, you can't attract workers, you can't retain those workers. That's what the survey said. Got a survey from Kearney. In fact, the guy from Kearney says, I'm not sure why LB496 didn't pass last year, but I know for a fact that tens of millions in payroll goes unfilled every year in Buffalo County. Huh? Must be an economic development tool. We talked about economic development tools. We talked about LB840, sales tax. That's one of them. The other one is the TIF financing. I've used TIF as a business person, as a banker. My last project in Scottsbluff was a \$3.5 million project that needed \$1.1 million of dirt work and infrastructure that would have been little, if any, support as far as the appraisal is

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

concerned. Now that person also needs 30 percent down, so you're talking a \$1 million, plus \$1.1 million, so we used TIF to do that. We got 13 jobs out of it, \$3.5 million. Interestingly, we also got the Fairfield Inn, 35 jobs, \$5.5 million that's been on the books for five years. The average life of a TIF bond is 7.5 years, not 15. We got to solve a workforce problem. We got to solve a workforce housing project. [LB496 LB840]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: One minute. [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: This is important legislation and don't be duped into the fact that this is a tax increase. This is actually broadening the base. How could broadening the base possibly be taken away from taxes? And as Senator Williams talked about, that original base can...still gets there. It doesn't go away. It's the incremental increase and valuation that's used for that type of financing. We need homes. We need housing. We've defined it. We've put it in a range. Not every house...it's not for a \$300,000, \$350,000, \$400,000 house. This is workforce housing as defined by LB518. We're making it consistent. This is important legislation, folks. This is one that you can go back and say, hey, there were housing studies across the state of Nebraska. There is a need in Lincoln and Omaha for severely blighted areas. [LB496 LB518]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Time, Senator. [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: This was a help. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Time, Senator. [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: Thank you. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Stinner. Mr. Clerk, you have a motion at the desk? [LB496]

CLERK: Mr. President, I do. Senator Stinner would move to invoke cloture pursuant to Rule 7, Section 10. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: It's the ruling of the Chair, there has been a full and fair debate afforded to LB496. Senator Stinner, for what purpose do you rise? [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: I would like a call to the house and a roll call in reverse order, please. [LB496]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: We're on a Final Reading, Senator. We'll just ask all the members to check in. [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: Okay. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All members, please check in. We're on Final Reading. There's a motion of cloture on the desk. All members please check in. All members please return to the Chamber and check in. We're on Final Reading. There's a motion of cloture at the desk. Senator Vargas, would you check in. All members are present. The first vote before you is whether or not to invoke cloture on LB496. Those in favor of the cloture motion vote aye; those... [LB496]

SENATOR STINNER: I'd like a roll call in reverse order, please. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: A roll call vote in reverse order has been requested. Mr. Clerk. [LB496]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1620.) 34 ayes, 10 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to invoke cloture. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The motion is successful, which will take us to our next vote, Senator Erdman's motion to return the bill to Select File. Those in favor of that motion vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB496]

CLERK: 11 ayes, 32 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to return the bill. [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: That motion is not successful, which will take us to Final Reading on LB496. Mr. Clerk. [LB496]

CLERK: (Read LB496 on Final Reading.) [LB496]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB496 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB496]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1621.) 35 ayes, 8 nays, 6 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB496]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB496 passes. Our next bill is LB670E. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB496 LB670]

CLERK: 40 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB670]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB670]

CLERK: (Read title of LB670.) [LB670]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB670E pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB670]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1622.) 37 ayes, 4 nays, 8 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB670]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB670E passes with the emergency clause attached. Our next bill is LB729. [LB670 LB729]

CLERK: (Read LB729 on Final Reading.) [LB729]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB729 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please. [LB729]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1623.) 49 ayes, 0 nays on the passage of LB729. [LB729]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB729 passes. Our next bill is LB731. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB729 LB731]

CLERK: 37 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB731]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB731]

CLERK: (Read title of LB731.) [LB731]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB731 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB731]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1624-1625.) 49 ayes, 0 nays on the passage of LB731. [LB731]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB731 passes. We'll now proceed to LB731A. [LB731 LB731A]

CLERK: (Read LB731A on Final Reading.) [LB731A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB731A pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please. [LB731A]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal 1625.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB731A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB731A passes. Our next bill is LB791E. [LB731A LB791]

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a series of amendments to be withdrawn. Senator Hansen, AM2901; Senator Quick, AM2837; Senator Hansen, AM2848; Senator Hansen, AM2840; Senator Hansen, AM2838; Senator McDonnell, FA146; Senator Blood, AM2809; and Senator Hansen, AM2744. Those all to be withdrawn. Mr. President, Senator Quick would move to return the bill for a specific amendment, FA147. (Legislative Journal page 1438.) [LB791]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Quick, you're recognized to open on your motion. [LB791]

SENATOR QUICK: Thank you, Mr. President. And I will be brief and when I'm done making my comments, I will pull FA147. You all know that I've been passionate about this and, you know, I agree with everything that they want to do within the bill. I disagree with some of the process. I just disagree with some of the process, and part of the process that I disagree with is

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

the piece on collective bargaining where it takes away some of the rights in collective bargaining for parts of...some parts of the discipline procedure. And collective bargaining rights have always been important to me. It's something that I want to make sure that the employees are treated with fairness and justice in the workplace and it's something that I've always been passionate about. And I know a lot of times a lot of us put on maybe some of the people who are disciplined, and we also need to look at what happens with supervisors and on management side. So there's always two sides of it and I just want to make sure that that's...that we always make sure we recognize that. And with that, I will pull FA147. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB791]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Quick. LB791E, Mr. Clerk. [LB791]

CLERK: (Read LB791 on Final Reading.) [LB791]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB791E pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please. [LB791]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1626-1627.) 38 ayes, 2 nays, 9 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB791]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB791E passes with the emergency clause attached. Our next bill is LB793E. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB791 LB793]

CLERK: 36 ayes, 3 nays to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB793]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB793]

CLERK: (Read title of LB793.) [LB793]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB793E pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB793]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1628.) 46 ayes, 1 nay, 2 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB793]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB793E passes with the emergency clause attached. Our next bill is LB807E. [LB793 LB807]

CLERK: (Read LB807 on Final Reading.) [LB807]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB807E pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB807]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1628-1629.) 47 ayes, 1 nay, 1 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB807]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB807E passes with the emergency clause attached. Our next bill is LB807AE. [LB807 LB807A]

CLERK: (Read LB807A on Final Reading.) [LB807A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB807AE pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB807A]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1629-1630.) 46 ayes, 1 nay, 2 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB807A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB807AE passes with the emergency clause attached. Our next bill is LB845. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB807A LB845]

CLERK: 37 ayes...excuse me, 38 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB845]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB845]

CLERK: (Read title of LB845.) [LB845]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB845 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB845]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1630.) 49 ayes, 0 nays on the final passage of LB845. [LB845]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB845 passes. Proceeding now to LB873. [LB845 LB873]

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Groene would move to return the bill for a specific amendment, that being to strike the enacting clause. (FA166, Legislative Journal page 1631.) [LB873]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Groene, you're recognized to open on your motion. [LB873]

SENATOR GROENE: Thank you. Mr. President, I am not filibustering this. I would hope when the vote turns out that we might tempt the Governor to veto it. The reason I stood is we spent a lot of time on the land banks, which as far as I'm concerned is about as Keynesian as you can get next to TIF, but we shouldn't be trying to dictate or inject tax dollars or government into free market decisions about real estate. The real reason I stood, we never got around to talking about some of the other bills that were amended into this. The original committee bill was just a cleanup bill, which I would have supported. But LB768 was injected into the bill which authorized cities of the first class, the second class and villages to make grants and loans under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act for early childhood infrastructure development. Then we also have another one, LB880 requires that cities include an early childhood element in their comprehensive plans no later than January 1. Sounds like something Susie Buffett would write. What does this have to do with this Legislature injecting themselves into city government on early childhood development? Could somebody explain that? What are we here...what kind of a state, what is our principles? Telling cities they have to develop early childhood plans? Anybody ask the parents if they wanted that? We're pushing it in our schools. We're pushing it now through the cities? Are we going to come with one next year talking about the counties have to have a plan? NRD's maybe. I don't know. Maybe the local cemetery board. What does this have to do with government? Streets? Sewers? Water mains? What in God's name are we enacting legislation in the state of Nebraska that tells cities to mess in families early childhood development? Could somebody explain that to me? Could somebody explain to me how you get 25 votes to do that? Starting to feel more isolated all the time. (Laugh) But anyway, my point is this, the land banks are a bad idea, telling cities to start messing around in early childhood development is way out of line. In my community, North Platte that has an LB840 plan, if somebody came to them with wanting to use a little LB840 money to open a childcare, I'm assuming it's a childcare or preschool, they could put an application in now and it makes no

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

difference what their business plan is. And if it fits the city's development plans, they could be given a grant. This is...I don't know what it is. Why you have to define it. What else do we define? We have to have car dealership...oh, no, a mechanic on every other street corner or should we have a plan or how we do...what other businesses do we have here that involves...children's playgrounds. I don't know. Water parks. Should we start putting when it involves children into our dictating to cities that they must do these things? Really. I would just as soon, we'd kill this bill, but I doubt that will happen. Like I said, I agree with the underlying bill, LB873, but when you start amending eight bills into it, and I don't care if they came out of committee 8-0, 7-0, or what they did, they...it's just another toe in the door of just government runs everything. Government makes all decisions and we're pushing really fast about how we raise our children and what independent's families have on those decisions. This is not good. Not good at all. So I thank you and I'll pull the motion to return to Select File. I would encourage people to vote red on LB873. [LB873 LB768 LB880 LB840]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Groene. The motion to return is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB873]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 35 ayes, 1 nay to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President. [LB873]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB873]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB873.) [LB873]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB873 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB873]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1632-1633.) The vote is 26 ayes, 15 nays, 8 present and not voting, 0 excused, Mr. President. [LB873]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB873 passes. (Visitors introduced.) Our next bill is LB953. [LB873 LB953]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB953 on Final Reading.) [LB953]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB953 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please. [LB953]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1633-1634.) The vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB953]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB953 passes. Next bill is LB957. [LB953 LB957]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB957 on Final Reading.) [LB957]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB957 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB957]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1634.) The vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President. [LB957]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB957 passes. Proceeding now to LB989. [LB957 LB989]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB989 on Final Reading.) [LB989]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB989 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB989]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1635.) The vote is 34 ayes, 8 nays, 7 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB989]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB989 passes. Next bill is LB998. [LB989 LB998]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB998 on Final Reading.) [LB998]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB998 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB998]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1635-1636.) 31 ayes, 15 nays, 3 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB998]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB998 passes. Our next bill is LB1034. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB998 LB1034]

CLERK: 38 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to dispense with the at-large reading. [LB1034]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB1034]

CLERK: (Read title of LB1034.) [LB1034]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1034 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB1034]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1636-1637.) 49 ayes, 0 nays on the final passage of LB1034. [LB1034]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB1034 passes. Next bill is LB1034A. [LB1034 LB1034A]

CLERK: (Read LB1034A on Final Reading.) [LB1034A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1034A pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB1034A]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1637.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB1034A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB1034A passes. Next bill is LB1065. [LB1034A LB1065]

CLERK: (Read LB1065 on Final Reading.) [LB1065]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1065 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB1065]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1638.) 34 ayes, 1 nay, 14 present and not voting, Mr. President. [LB1065]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB1065 passes. Our next bill is LB1065A. [LB1065 LB1065A]

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Murante would move to return the bill for purposes of striking the enacting clause. (FA164, Legislative Journal page 1638.) [LB1065A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Murante, you're recognized to open on your motion. [LB1065A]

SENATOR MURANTE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, good afternoon. Looking at the last three items on the agenda, it appeared likely that both a...two Murante bills and a Larson bill would be the last bills that this Legislature addressed for the year. And I know it would leave a sour taste in many of your mouths if we passed all of those pieces of legislation, so I'm offering before you an opportunity to kill an A bill that became functionally obsolete with General File amendments. The A bill is no longer necessary, so this is my gift to you before we enter our interim. Senator Morfeld, Senator Harr, we had fun this year. So I hope you enjoy yourselves. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB1065A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Murante. Any further discussion on the motion? Senator Kolterman, you're recognized. [LB1065A]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I was just wondering if Senator Harr would yield to a question? (Laughter) [LB1065A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Howard, would you yield, please? Harr, excuse me. [LB1065A]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: Senator Harr, how many days are left in this session? [LB1065A]

SENATOR HARR: This is my final day with you. [LB1065A]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: Hopefully not. But we've enjoyed serving with you. Thank you. [LB1065A]

SENATOR HARR: Thank you. I appreciate that. [LB1065A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Senator Murante, you're recognized to close on your motion. He waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of the motion to return the bill to Select File for a specific amendment. Those in favor of the Murante motion vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB1065A]

CLERK: 36 ayes, 9 nays, Mr. President, to return the bill. [LB1065A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The bill is returned to Select File. Senator Murante, you're recognized to open on FA164. He waives opening. Any discussion? Seeing none, Senator Murante, you're welcome...he waives closing. The question for the body is the adoption of FA164. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB1065A]

CLERK: 37 ayes, 5 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to strike the enacting clause. [LB1065A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The amendment is adopted. The bill is killed. Our final bill is LB1120. [LB1065A LB1120]

CLERK: Mr. President, if I may, I have a motion to withdraw from Senator Larson. Withdraw. Thank you. That's all that I have, Mr. President. Thank you. [LB1120]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: That will complete Final Reading. Sorry. I'm sorry, Senator Larson, that's an error. (Laughter) Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. [LB1120]

CLERK: 38 ayes, 7 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President. [LB1120]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title. [LB1120]

CLERK: (Read title of LB1120.) [LB1120]

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

PRESIDENT FOLEY: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB1120 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please. [LB1120]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 1639-1640.) 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting. [LB1120]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: LB1120 passes. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following legislative bills: LB1005E, LB117, LB194, LB299, LB449, LB496, LB670E, LB729, LB731, LB731A, LB791E, LB793E, LB807E, LB807AE, LB845, LB873, LB953, LB957, LB989, LB998, LB1034, LB1034A, LB1065, and LB1120. Senator Brasch, for what purpose do you rise? [LB1120 LB1005 LB117 LB194 LB299 LB449 LB496 LB670 LB729 LB731 LB731A LB791 LB793 LB807 LB807A LB845 LB873 LB953 LB957 LB989 LB998 LB1034 LB1034A LB1065]

SENATOR BRASCH: Mr. President, I move that a committee of five be appointed to notify the Governor that the One Hundred Fifth Legislature, Second Session of the Nebraska Legislature is about to complete its work and to return with any message the Governor may have for the Legislature.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Brasch. Members, you heard the motion. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. I hereby appoint the following five members to serve as the Escort Committee: Senators Baker, Harr, Kuehn, Schumacher, and Smith. If those senators would please retire to the rear of the Chamber and escort the Governor to the Chamber. The Chair recognizes the sergeant at arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Governor Pete Ricketts.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Members of the One Hundred Fifth Legislature and distinguished guests, I present to you the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Governor Pete Ricketts.

GOVERNOR RICKETTS: Thank you. Thank you. Please sit down. President Foley, Speaker Scheer, members of the Legislature, it is an honor again to join you here in your Chamber for the closing of the Second Session of the One Hundred Fifth Nebraska Legislature. Just a few months ago, I was here in my State of the State address laying out the priorities for our state. And in my remarks, I talked about the importance of working together in collaboration. And indeed, that is really one of the hallmarks we share as Nebraskans. I hear it all the time, when I talk to

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

businesses who are thinking about moving here to the state, they talk about how we work together to meet their needs, or nonprofits who come to see how we do things here, they always remark on how we collaborate. And I think this session underscores the importance of that collaboration working together and how by doing that, we can accomplish much. I think about the bills that you all have been able to get done. Senator Murante and Senator Friesen worked together to streamline how we have speed limits on our state highways. Senator Pansing Brooks and Senator Linehan worked together to improve grade school reading. Senator Hilgers and Senator Riepe worked together on primary direct care for our state teammates, expanding healthcare options for them. Senator Howard, Senator Kuehn and Senator Lindstrom worked together to make sure Nebraska stayed at the forefront of preventing opioid abuse in our state. Senator Albrecht passed a pro-life bill that helped recognize the dignity of preborn children who pass away. And, of course, occupational licensing reform is something we've talk about a lot. And Senator Groene got quite a bit of attention for his horse massaging bill, but that bill really highlights the problems with having owners regulations around our occupational licensing. Do you know, not one single person had become licensed to be a horse masseuse. So, thank you, Senator Groene for working on that bill. Senator Geist also worked on being able to do away with some of the dual requirements for school bus drivers. And Senator Murante on some of the unnecessary restrictions on our abstracters. The Judiciary Committee and the Business and Labor Committee worked on important reforms for our State Patrol including a new way to report sexual harassment. All of these were done because we worked together. We also saw some progress on taxes. And I want to thank Senator Smith and the Revenue Committee for making sure that Nebraskans would be able to enjoy the full benefits with federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. By passing LB1089 we made sure our farmers and ranchers and other businesses would not see steep personal property tax increases. By passing LB1090, we made sure that every Nebraska family would continue to have a personal tax exemption per person, \$134. Family of four that would be \$536. If we hadn't done that, collectively we would have seen a nearly \$200 million tax hike on our Nebraska families. Senator Lindstrom also passed an important bill for Social Security taxes indexing the level at which those taxes would not be collected, not be subject to that income tax, thus ensuring that our seniors, especially those on fixed incomes, would not see their income or their buying power erode over time due to inflation. Money magazine ranks us the thirteenth most friendly state for retirement. Senator Lindstrom in this bill will help us make sure that we continue to be a friendly place for retirees. Now, while we made some progress, we certainly had our challenges on taxes as well. Despite overwhelming public support, including groups like the Nebraska Farm Bureau, the Soybean Association, the Dairymen, Pork Producers, our State Chamber, the Omaha Chamber, Lincoln Chamber, property tax relief was not passed this year. I want to thank Senator Smith and Speaker Scheer for their efforts to bring people together to be able to pass that bill and I want to thank the majority of senators who voted to advance LB947. Folks, we cannot tax one Nebraskan to give another Nebraskan tax relief. That's not tax relief. Tax relief is controlling our spending and putting more money back into the pockets of hard working Nebraskans. And within that framework, I will work continuously with

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

senators and other groups on how we can achieve property tax relief for our hard working Nebraskans. The budget was another important topic that we took up this year. At the beginning of the year, we had a \$200 million gap we had to close. And we have worked on that budget now, done three budgets in 15 months. Folks, that hasn't happened in nearly ten years where we've had to do that. But once again by working together, we closed that gap, we balanced our budget, and we did it without raising taxes. We controlled the growth of government. In fact, we have reduced the growth of government by over 90 percent. And while doing that, have made important investments in the areas such as child welfare, people with developmental disabilities, corrections reform, and we also passed important Title X language. Again, I want to thank Chairman Stinner, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the entire Appropriations Committee as well as Speaker Scheer for all their hard work on getting that budget passed. That was incredibly important. And since I've been here in January, we have seen Nebraska continue to grow. Since I was here last, we found out that Nebraska has for the second time in a row been awarded the Governor's cup for the most economic development projects per capita of any state in the nation. For two years in a row now, we have had more projects than North Dakota, South Dakota, and Kansas combined. We have also seen U.S. News and World Report rank us the 7th best state overall. We've seen Kawasaki win a big contract to build rail cars right here in Lincoln. Facebook has now started tripling their investment in our state. And Met Life has announced they're going to domicile their company here in our state. This fall, it will bring about 200 jobs to our state. We continue to see Nebraska grow because of the work that you all do and the work of so many Nebraskans across the state to make sure that we continue to have a place where companies want to invest and ensure that our Nebraska families can send their kids to school, go on that family vacation, and continue to enjoy the good life. Now, before I wrap up, I want to recognize a couple of other groups. First of which are the members of our Nebraska National Guard, and in particular, we just had 55 soldiers return from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They have been deployed for nearly a year. They were assisting in detaining enemy combatants who we know wanted to kill Americans and destroy our way of life. Those soldiers and all the men and woman who put on the uniform sacrifice much to keep us safe at home and defend our freedoms and liberties abroad. Please help me recognize the service and sacrifice of those soldiers deployed to Guantanamo Bay made as well as all of our men and women in the military. And finally, we have a number of senators who will be retiring from this body: Senator Baker, Senator Brasch, Senator Harr, Senator Krist, Senator Kuehn, Senator Larson, Senator Schumacher and Senator Smith. They have also sacrificed time away from their families, from their friends, from their businesses, to be able to work on the business of the people in Nebraska here in this body. Please help me recognize them for their service and their sacrifice. I notice there are, many of them are standing right behind me here. And for the rest of our legislators, thank you, to you as well, because you also serve the people of Nebraska in this great body. You also sacrifice your time. And not only you, but all the people who support you and indeed all of our state teammates who work on behalf of the people of Nebraska. I can think of no more noble mission. So thank you for what you do to help us grow our great state, to help make sure

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

Nebraska families can enjoy the good life, and to ensure that we continue to have the best place in the world to live, work, and raise a family. God bless you in what you do and God bless the great state of Nebraska. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Thank you, Governor Ricketts. Would the Escort Committee please assist the Governor as he departs the Chamber. Senator Stinner, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR STINNER: I need a personal privilege, please.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: Please proceed.

SENATOR STINNER: It is my honor and privilege to introduce LR471. It was introduced by me, signed by everyone in the Legislature, and what the resolution does is resolves by the members of the One Hundred Fifth Legislature of Nebraska, it congratulates Mike Calvert for his 35 years of service to the Legislature and on his being awarded the outstanding public administrator of the year award. Would Mike come over here and I'll give him this and I think he deserves a standing ovation. [LR471]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator Hansen, you're recognized.

SENATOR HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like a point of person privilege.

SPEAKER SCHEER: You may proceed.

SENATOR HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon colleagues. Colleagues, having experienced this two years ago, today is always a sentimental day where we recognize a lot of traditions, a lot of individuals at the end of the legislative careers, but there's one tradition that recognizes someone much earlier in the legislative career and that is why we're recognizing Senator Anna Wishart for being Chair of Enrollment and Review. (Laughter) I will say much of the work of the Enrollment and Review Chair goes unnoticed, the long, long hours put in looking for grammatical and technical errors in bills, working with Bill Drafters to make sure those amendments are very quickly drafted and presented to the body, that long, long work goes unnoticed and unfortunately doesn't get fully appreciated. So unfortunately for Senator Wishart, I think we're probably going to remember her for being an advocate for autonomous vehicles and some of the other, you know, small things she did in her first term and we're going to forget her tenure as Enrollment and Review. But, Anna, Senator Wishart, I would like you to accept a briefcase on behalf of the body for recognition of your service for Enrollment and Review. Thank you.

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator Baker, would you please come forward.

SENATOR BAKER: Well, thank you. I asked Speaker Scheer if we should treat this like Festivus: have an airing of the grievances so those of us departing could express our profound disappointment to the rest of you, but Jim thought that probably wasn't a good idea, said we do that every day (laughter). So really I wanted to say some things that I appreciate, and I have to start with my staff. Janet Anderson and Barb Dorn have been with me throughout. We get along well. They do great work. They're both highly intelligent and multitalented. Lucky are the senators who get them next. Secondly, I appreciate my colleagues. I served on four different standing committees during my time here, and so you get to know those senators a little bit better by serving on a committee with them, and also just the proximity on the floor of where you sit makes a difference too. So throughout my four years I sat where I am this year, so the cast of characters changes a little bit from the first two years but, still, you get to know those people a bit more than you do people sitting close up front. Thirdly, I appreciate the Capitol staff from Patrick O'Donnell and all of you others who work in the various departments. They possess very important institutional knowledge and they are just excellent at what they do. I appreciate having the opportunity to meet hundreds and hundreds of good people as a result of being elected to the Nebraska Legislature that I would have not ever met before, more than likely. That's not only constituents of District 30, but it's agency personnel, college university officials and, despite our occasional complaints, the people behind the glass. I appreciate the talented reporters who cover the Legislature: Don Walton, Fred Knapp, J.L. Schmidt, and a host of others. They do a good job of letting the public know what is happening here in the Legislature and pretty well analyze the forces at work. And during the session, they're a good source of information for us, too, because we're in our own committee, there are numerous other committees meeting at the same time, and we don't know what went on in there till we read the papers the next morning or watch TV that night, so we appreciate those people very much. I appreciate my District 30 constituents who have been good about offering their opinions to me and who, from time to time, will let me know how proposed bills would impact them personally. I've never ceased to appreciate the opportunity to walk into this building, this marvelous building, probably the most majestic building in the state of Nebraska. I feel like we're a part of history and one of the pieces of that history is working with the senator who is probably watching from his office, who's been here 44 years. Analysts of Nebraska history will not fail to note the prominent role that Senator Chambers played. My wife and I will be moving in about one year. We're going to move to Minnesota, where my younger son Scott and his family live, he and his wife and our two grandkids, nine and seven. And then we're going to also establish a winter home in Phoenix, where our older son lives, to escape the cold weather of Minnesota, which is probably worse than what we had this year. Our plan was always, all along, was to move closer to our kids once I retired. You know, after I retired from Norris, we had a couple years where we just traveled, and then that third year I got called back into duty being interim superintendent of Beatrice. And then, you know, we still felt we couldn't leave the area since

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

Paula's parents were here and they were upper 80s. We felt like they needed our help, so that first year in the...I was in the Legislature, both of her parents died, so I've got to be honest with you, I probably knew at that time it was going to be one term of service for me. I'll be 73 my next birthday, and it's time to enter the next phase of my life and I just hope it's a long, long phase (laughter). So thank you all for the time we've had together. I wish you all the best.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Brasch, would you please come forward.

SENATOR BRASCH: Good afternoon. And a word of warning: Speaker Scheer did say take as long as you want to (laughter). This could be fun but (laughter)...but I'm really trying to be ten minutes or less. That seems very appropriate. And I also do want to thank Charlie Brogan for the mock resolution that is printed and on your desk. He thought we could all use a good laugh about the weather and ourselves, so thank you, Charlie Brogan. And then I do want to thank, like everyone here, my staff. I have many staff in the past. I see one sitting in the balcony up there, Tom, and there have been others and they've gone to different positions from to Senator Fischer's office to the Governor's Office to other...one is a lobbyist. And we all take great pride in our staff and what they've done for us and what they do in the future. And I do have exceptional staff with me this year, and that's Rick, Courtney, and Jacob. They are amazingly talented and they're exemplary in all they do professionally and personally. They are an A-plus team, and this year could not have been as rewarding or successful without their dedication, their many skills, knowledge, and endurance. So first off, kudos and thank you to my A team. And then I do want to thank the support staff in this entire phenomenal, beautiful building, people from the pages that sit here patiently up front waiting for us to push that light so they can come and help us in whatever ways possible. Thank you to: the Clerk's Office; our wonderful Sergeant at Arms who tell us to sit down, stay in our seats, they keep us in line; the State Patrol for being out there in the dark when we leave here late at night to make us feel safe, the security in this building; our Bill Drafters have been angels and superheroes; the Research offices here; accounting; maintenance. Thank you, Chuck, Rick, and Roxanne, and so many others that do work behind the scenes. There's many who are not visible to us, but they do work tirelessly to keep things running flawlessly, so thank you to those who we see very little of. And again, today is a day to say thank you. And to my colleagues: I've learned so much from you. You've been interesting and it's been fun to collaborate and work with you. Thank you to my family, friends, and constituents, and the amazing Nebraskans watching us. I don't know, for the newcomers, if you realize how many people do watch and, to my surprise--and I was humbled today on my last day--people who stopped me in the hallway who weren't from the district, people who traveled in to share words of support. And the beautiful Mrs. Patterson (phonetic) from Lincoln, who I've never met and she was going to offices, she's a nurse who has a disability and she watches faithfully and she gave me her thanks. And there's Mr. Truemper. Jim Pappas came in today too. I have a dear friend who surprised me. Karen (phonetic) from West Point came today and I heard

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

there was snow that way. And there's many others that...you know, too many to thank. There's techs, e-mails, social media, you name it. But again, that second house, my message to you is: Carry on and you've got this. Today I found a fitting quote, and it's the wisdom of Dr. Seuss. Dr. Seuss says that sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory, and that's exactly what's happening and what's happened. Today, seven years later, three months, 17 days, and odd hours, this will all be just a memory, a humbling memory of the honor and privilege it is to serve an incredible state and to be a part of this journey in serving as a senator. Many experiences and memories that I have seem like a giant kaleidoscope and it brings a collage of faces. I see yours here today and in the distance there's thousands of faces and countless days and nights, meetings, hearings, phone calls, e-mails, mail, chance encounters, and travels that you, too, will do, not just in your district but travels across the state of Nebraska--you'll span the Midwest and you'll travel across our mighty nation. Eight years has gone incredibly fast, and I knew it would. I mean that was a given. And there's been a lot to learn from day one. And things here, sometimes, are just hard to forget, for better or worse, and that's how it goes. Those days are phenomenally amazing and they'll always remain "inscribed" in your heart, and by the grace of God, it will be written in history of this great state. And on the other hand, besides the greatness, it's not always a walk in the park. Sometimes you feel like you're out in the wilderness, or even in the wild, wildest of the Wild West where any given moment it's a prayer that carries you and lifts you through your day. Rest assured, those dark days are merely fleeting moments, and I still believe that good prevails. Finally, I want to say hello again, hello to my family at home, to the farm, to others, to my friends in the days ahead, and to say thank you to my wonderful family and those I mentioned for their love, patience, encouragement, and their understanding that allows you, as a senator. On some days they even have to forgive you because you do dedicate a piece of your life, a piece of your time, regardless if it's at home or the Capitol or traveling in your district, but you serve others, but never before God and country, so our families, they serve, too, with little recognition. I'm going to give my husband a shout out and tell him he's incredible, for even when I'm not working in Lincoln or in session, during the interims he says every morning, where are you going today? And it's not so much that he misses me, but I do know he does, and so does my dog, and I believe mostly it's because he needs help on the farm with an extra set of hands, he needs a driver, a parts runner, and he needs help during harvest and during planting, and he needs someone there to bandage his wounds after he picks a fight with broken-down equipment--and that does happen. Some days he's worried because in District 16, along these many years, and some other areas of our state, we did battle with Mother Nature. There were floods along the Missouri River. There was massive hailstorms that broke roofs and windows and property. There were tornadoes that ripped through Wisner and elsewhere. It took homes, feedlots, livelihoods, and tragedy hit Pilger with fatalities. And during those times, many of these friends along the way offered me hospitality with a safe place to stay out of the hail in their homes, offered me protection from the storms. And Lee did worry, but most of all what he worried about, and I'll quote him, if you are going to get a flat tire, there's nails out there. And I did get a few flat tires, but it was worth it. And also today, in the balcony, I

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

do want to say thank you to my dear, brave son and his wife and my "granddogs" because during session I stay there. And they're brave because they are my first responders when I walk through the door after a long day here in paradise--I mean the Legislature. They can see our good days and the bad days firsthand written on my face. They always offer love, smiles, and encouragement. And my daughter and her husband, our five grandkids, I want to thank them for being patient and complying with my calendar because often, like you will do, is you'll end up rescheduling celebrations because you need to be somewhere else and sometimes you just need to get together, just because. So even though being away, it sounds bad, but what happens is kind of selfish, I think, is because you do fall in love with your district, your constituents, and a magic happens where those people become your second family and they are watching today and I want to thank them. And for everyone else that's in here today, I do think that there's possibilities that are beyond your imagination that you will face and you will realize that, before you know it, that this place doesn't change you like people say it will, but it will transform you. And again, I know this room will carry on. They will move forward and they will go, like others have gone before me--thank you term limits--and like Dr. Seuss says, that sometimes you'll never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory. It's all good memories. It's all good things. Today I also did want to say, Barbara Bush, I'm wearing pearls for you, rest in peace. God bless. Thank you.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Brasch. Senator Harr, would you please come forward.

SENATOR HARR: Never stood up here before. I find myself up here as nervous as it were my first day in the Legislature. I've written a speech, which my staff generally says I should speak from bullet points or from my heart because when I read it's not as good. But today, because I'm not going to be able to hit the white button again, I'm going to try something a little different, and that's to be articulate (laughter). I thought about this speech a lot of times over eight years, and partially I wanted to remember all the great things I've done, but somehow that never happened. Partially, I've been writing this over eight years because I remember hearing other senators on their last day talk and give a great speech, but today I can't remember one of those. And thirdly, I've been writing this for eight years because I wanted...when you're on a race, you want to know the end and you want people to know who you are and what you stand for. And as I stand here, I'm still not sure what I'm going to say. It would be easy to say I'm going to miss the people but not the work, but that would be a lie. I've enjoyed and loved the work and the people here. In 1981, I came here as a fourth-grader, like everyone else across the state does, and visited this building. And I probably dreamt but never believed I would one day get the honor of working in this building, and I've had that honor twice. First time, right out of law school, I worked for the Honorable Ed Hannon, and then for the last eight years I've had the privilege of working for the citizens and my constituents in LD8. And so I want to thank everyone who made this possible for me. To the constituents of LD8: Thank you for the honor to represent your thoughts and ideas. You have supported me, voted for me, advised me, and, at times,

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

constructively criticized me. I'm a better senator for you, because of you. Thank you. To my fellow senators: Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and, of course, Libertarian, thank you very much. It's been a fun, crazy little ride. Last week, Senator McDonnell gave a nice speech about me, and about halfway through I thought I died and no one had told me (laughter). It was a wonderful eulogy. So to each of you, thank you. To Patrick O'Donnell, the staff of the Clerk's Office that we see here--Diana, Carol, Vicki--to Kitty, wherever she's hiding, and the pages--no one can see you back there, Kitty--that we see every day on the floor and to those whom we don't see every day in the Clerk's Office behind us, the Bill Drafters--I think I saw over there--the transcribers, the Red Coats and the Bill Room, Legislative Research: thank you. We couldn't run this place without you. I owe a special debt of gratitude--I'm looking at you, Mike--to Mike Calvert, who, I wrote on here, "after umpteen years," but I guess it's 35 years of service, is retiring, and the Fiscal Office as well. We may not have always seen eye to eye (laughter)--that may be an understatement--but I always appreciated you and your hard work and I am a much better person for having worked with you, so thank you very much. To all the legislative staffers here, this place couldn't run without you--thank you very much. To my own staff that I've worked with through the years: Andy Hale, I don't remember him (laughter); Paige Hutchinson; Eric Sutton; Doug Koebernick; Meghan Chaffee; Lauren Williams; and Kaylie Hogan-Schnittker. I know I probably wasn't the easiest person to work with. I'm working on organizing myself. It's a lifelong journey for me. But at least now you don't have to worry about what I may or may not do or say. To Jamison Wyatt--I didn't forget you--words alone can't express what you've meant for me. My only regret is that you never taught Jennifer how easy it is to organize me, to anticipate my moves, and to be open to new experiences. Thank you. When people ask me what I'm going to miss most about the Legislature, I said I'm going to miss our friendship and our interaction, so thank you for all that you've done. To all the people who have mentored me through the years, and there are too many to mention, it's taken a lot to get me up here and, quite frankly, today probably some of them wouldn't want to claim me. But to one in particular, Frank Barrett, I want to thank him. He was my godfather, or he is my godfather, and he was my confirmation sponsor, and he taught me about faith, that it must be lived, that it must be practiced, it's more than just going to church on Sunday, it's about looking out for everybody, especially those, the poor and the...the poor in society that are easily forgotten and he's taught me it's important to look out. And so to all my mentors, but especially Frank, thank you. To my family: I want to thank my parents, who are here up in the balcony, if they could stand. I really just wanted to embarrass my dad (laughter). Thank you for all that you guys have done. You guys, more than anyone else, are responsible for molding me into the person I am today. To my mother and father-in-law: I know it probably wasn't their dream to have a son-in-law in the Legislature, but I appreciate their support in allowing me to live my dream. To my siblings--and I'm almost done with the thank-yous--to my siblings by birth and by marriage and their children, thank you for all your support through the rough times. Whenever I needed a sounding board, an adviser, day care, or a safe bathroom for my kids, they were there. Thank you. Speaking of my kids, my...two of them are over there, Rita and Gussie; Ambrose is behind the glass. Thank you,

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

guys. Whether you knew it or not, you inspired me every day to make this state a better place. I hope I didn't disappoint you. And if I have, or if we have, I blame Senator Groene (laughter). He's not even here! He must have known it was coming. To my wife Jennifer, behind the glass, I will try to make it up to you for the rest of my life. Thank you for taking me down this journey and coming with me. I can't think of anyone I would have rather done this with. Even when I was practicing this, I would cry. I don't express emotions very often. Jennifer, you are my North Star and you shined brightest when things were the darkest, so thank you. Okay, I'm done with that. It has been a privilege, no matter how short, to be a steward of this unique institution, the Unicameral. This institution was designed differently than any other state or federal institution, not just to save money but because the people of Nebraska thought we could look beyond our petty differences and be statesmen and -women. We must live up to that expectation. We must set aside petty disagreements. We must learn to expand our thoughts and better our hearts. We must examine our fundamental principles and learn how to merge our ideas and ideals for the greater glory of the state of Nebraska and her citizens. We must aspire to our better angels and not just justify our cynics' fears. After all, that is the Nebraska way and that's what Nebraskans expect. This requires more than just changing the filibuster rule. No other legislative body grants so much power to each member, nor does any other legislative body expect as much from each of their members. However, as a state senator, we cannot succeed alone. This is a team sport. We must learn to work together. We must remember the words of Richard Nixon: Our friends are not always our allies and our enemies are not always our adversary. Politics today seems to reward partisanship, passion, and, yes, tweets, and not deliberation, compromise, and bipartisanship. Compromise and bipartisanship have become bad words. I would disagree. I would contend they are great words. Compromise: You cannot begin with compromise. It is something that is forged through debate. It is through debate that we hone our arguments, we evaluate them, and, yes, possibly, evolve. But ultimately we find agreement because steel on steel makes steel stronger and sharper. Bipartisanship is also an achievable goal. Like compromise, it is something you arrive at through diligence, respect for others, their thoughts, trust, and friendship. Too often we overlook that last aspect, friendship, and it's this last aspect that I will miss the most. I will miss each and every one of you. It has truly been an honor, after all. How many fourth graders have visited this Capitol Building with a similar goal of having the opportunity to serve in this building and actually got to work here? Thank you, again, to LD8 for giving me the honor of serving you and this great state of Nebraska.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Harr. And by the way, you were very close to getting a minute warning (laughter). Senator Krist, would you please come forward.

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you. Carol and I have an ongoing joke. She takes the yellow pad away from me every time I come up here, so I brought my own. Today is a day for me to give thanks. Peggy, Courtney, Justin, Aura, Lucas, thank you. Beth Dinneen, ten years with me--thank you. Rod Krogh, nine years--thank you. Janice Satra, four years as legal counsel, thank you for your

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

advice. Thank you so much. Maddy Breeling just joined us this year. She's the newcomer. Thank you. You all know that Rod had a serious accident and as he came back, I did not replace him. But I had some outstanding help and I want to mention just a few names. Linda Schmidt, Kate Wolfe, Sherrie Geier, Julia Holmquist, thank you so much. When we were looking for people to name as IGs, both in Health and Human services and in Corrections, we thought there was no such person, no such qualified person that we could find, and we were lucky enough to find Julie Rogers, who is up in the balcony, and Doug Koebernick, who I worked with on several occasions in the Corrections Special Investigative Committees and now as your IG. Use them. Use them wisely. Liz Hruska: Most of you like Mike--I like Liz (laughter). Liz has always given me the information I need and more and has kept me on the straight and narrow in several ways. She's also my connection to Koterba, so I've had a couple cartoons that we've been able to autograph. Special thanks to Chief Justice Heavican and for his cooperation, and Corey Steel. Without them, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and what we've accomplished here in this Legislature would not be possible. Larry Bare, we started out as not so friendly years ago, and he has done such an outstanding job preparing you for your HVAC...I'll call it a venture, adventure, I guess. Good luck to all of you in the tower. I'll be thinking about you. Especially thanks to Patrick O'Donnell. I was appointed and came in and less than ten days later we were in a special session. I had a three-hour orientation and I've had a ten-year tutelage from Patrick O'Donnell. Thank you all. Thanks for the opportunity. Thanks, District 10. We'll see you later.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Krist. Senator Kuehn, would you please come forward.

SENATOR KUEHN: This will be uncharacteristically brief. I had done a pretty good job for four years of keeping my blushing habit under wraps and kind of blew that on day 59 and I already feel the heat rising in my head. There's a lot of feelings flying around and I'm afraid I might catch some. So I would like to take a brief moment today to express the true gratitude for the honor it has been to serve the citizens of District 38 over the last four years. It's been a true privilege and I hope I have represented them consistent with the ethics and values and advocated in the manner in which I promised when I sought their vote. I truly want to thank all of the family and friends who have made it possible for me to serve. I've got family and friends who have put cattle in that were running down the road while I was here on floor debate, who have done late-night checks, who have assisted me in ways, colleagues who picked up classes so I could leave to go to meetings and hearings. And my service would not have been possible without the sacrifice of many, many who may not even realize the role that they played in my service. Certainly, the staff that have worked with me--MacKenzie, Jessica, John, and Nick have been exceptional assets in making this job easier, as well as the outstanding legislative staff that serves us all, whether it's committee staff, staff in the Fiscal Office, all of the great staff in Legislative Performance Audit. They have made this an experience that is certainly one that is memorable. And while this has been a truly remarkable and memorable experience, I would be

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

not true to myself if I did not express that for four years I've been a little homesick and I'm looking forward to going back home and expressing my vocation through my passion. I appreciate the opportunity to serve and work with all of you and wish all of you and the state of Nebraska the best. Thank you.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Kuehn. Senator Larson, would you please come forward.

SENATOR LARSON: As all before me, I would like to start with the thank-yous. First, to the staff that I've had throughout the years, I see two in the balcony and Keisha and Travis, Katie came and talked to me earlier today, and of course, most of all, those that are currently with me: my legal counsel, Josh Eickmeier; my legislative aide, Alycia; and my committee clerk, Aaron. I couldn't have done this job without you guys, whether it was at the beginning or at the end, and I've always appreciated your loyalty and hopefully I've shown you the same. I'd also like to thank my constituents of District 40. I've been humbled that you believed in me when I was 23 and sent me here. I've learned a lot. I've worked hard and I was again humbled when you put faith in me four years later. And I do owe so much to my constituents and their life lessons, whether it's...or they're just coming to my aid when I needed it, getting stuck in the snow and having someone pull me out or helping me whenever I needed something along the road, and they were always there for me. And I'd also like to thank my family. Brittany, my parents, my two children, they are my rocks in terms of what I always...I want them to look up to me and appreciate and be proud of what I've done here, and hopefully they are. This place has given me many memories and lessons, ones that I look forward to passing on to my children. Hopefully they also get to serve their communities as I did, and hopefully they get paid a little more for doing it. I've met some amazing people while in this body, people that supported me through hard times and people that will be lifelong best friends, two that have exited the body, one still here. Few things that I'd like to pass on to those that are staying or those that are coming in and lessons that I have truly learned: Always do what you say you're going to do. If you tell somebody you'll do something, do it. I know sometimes it sucks, but always stay true to that. Second, be creative. There will be people that will tell you that you can't or it's never been done before in this body. That doesn't actually mean you can't do it. They just don't want you to. Find a way. There are things that I haven't been able to accomplish that I wanted to accomplish here. There are many things that I have accomplished...have accomplished or worked to accomplish, whether that's legislative or just working and teaching people how to efficiently and effectively organize. I've cherished my time in this body and all that I've learned, but at the ripe age of 32 my time here is done and I'm ready to move on to the next chapter of my life, and I thank all of you for being part of this one. Thank you.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Larson. Senator Schumacher, would you please come forward.

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: Some of you may have noticed that I'm wearing two pins today. That's so I can do a double whammy. Actually, this is the first time I've worn those pins and I figured if I didn't do it today, I'd just be out of luck. (Laughter) I want to thank the folks of the 22nd District for the honor of serving here and for making all of those wonderful sunrises visible to be savored on the way in from Columbus every morning that I was here. I want to thank Michele, who I took out of Florida more than 40 years ago, away from the sunshine and the sands to a land without mountains, without oceans, with 100 degrees in the summer, an abundance of animal odors and allergens, and highs of zero in the winter. She stayed with me and raised two wonderful girls, Nicole and Kristin. I want to thank the folks back in Columbus who kept the enterprises running while I had a picnic down here: Tom Havelka, who has been with me a long time and been a tremendously loyal friend; Gina (phonetic); Mary Rae (phonetic); Linda, who is the...Linda Aerni, who is the mother of rural Internet and broadband in Nebraska; Clay (phonetic) and Lindsay (phonetic)--all those people who worked so hard so I could be here. You know, I never used my full allotment of staff. For the first years, I had one, and that was not because I was so darn conservative and didn't want to spend tax money, but it was because Peg Jones was so good she could do the work of two people. The last few years, Darlene Howsden helped so that Peg could take a break. Want to thank the legislative staff, without whom this place would not run--thank you very much. And to our pages: I hope, as you sat there looking out at us, you had the thought, gosh, I could do better than that (laughter), and one day will run for this position. To the press corps: I always felt I was treated fairly and I'm tremendously appreciative that some of the doozies I uttered never made it into print (laughter). To the camera crews who operate those cameras covering the Chamber: Thank you. The last thing I needed was my mother asking, why were you picking at that on TV? (Laughter) To the lobby: You were so much fun (laughter) in committee hearings and I hope I made you a lot of money with my bills when they sent terror into the hearts of your clients. Also want to thank research groups, such as OpenSky, which provided excellent and accurate information when it was needed fast. And Senator Chambers is not here, but I'm told that he's always watching, so turn about is fair play. I was privileged with having him as a seatmate for five years. And when I watched him sometimes, I saw someone walking in the desert, seeking discourse with gods and demons; I saw somebody rushing into a temple to throw out the Pharisees and the money changers; somebody walking along a dusty path, picking up a trembling little critter, holding it, and sending it to safety. I now know what is meant when the ancient texts speak of a holy man. It was my honor. Colleagues, I'm sorry to leave you with such a mess (laughter), and that I can't stay to help you clean it up. I've been around Senator Brasch long enough to know that if I left today without stirring the pot, it would be un-American (laughter). Incidentally, Senator Brasch and I had a bit of a contest. We wanted to have perfect attendance, and we both fell just a tad short. I missed a snow day when the only thing on the agenda was to adjourn and Senator Brasch had an important event to go to and she broke her perfect attendance this year, but we did pretty good. Some parting observations: Barring some cataclysm, Nebraska's future can be predicted with a high degree of certainty. It will be...continue to be dominated by the evolution of

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

agriculture. It will see unprecedented bounty in grain and livestock produced by corporate genetics, chemistry, technology, finance, data, transportation, and food processing. Traditional paradigms focusing on land ownership and physical labor will continue to diminish in importance. No cropland will go untilled, no grassland ungrazed. With few exceptions, smaller communities will wither, middle-sized ones will trudge along, and the few larger ones will endeavor with uncertain results in the international competition of geography, climate, and culture. Today the state faces a financial crisis fueled by the ease of winning elections simply by telling people that they are overtaxed and abused by bloated government. "I'll cut your taxes," is a rallying call of Machiavellian winners and the very first words in the "I want to be Governor" handbook. Our rhetoric causes people to expect government to perform, prisons to be reformed, mental health to be addressed, preschoolers to be taught fundamentals while both parents work for low wages, quality education to be provided for all, public pension plans to be bailed out, local government debt to be retired, penniless baby boomers to be cared for, highways to be four-laned, and the working poor to be provided with subsidized training, housing, and healthcare--well, maybe not healthcare--in order to facilitate the profitability of capital incentive to be deployed here. We've led people to expect that and more, and the people trusted us, believed what they were told: that the tab for all that would be paid for by tax cuts, eliminating waste, running the state like a business, withering away government, an influx of people that looked like us, and the elusive butterfly of growth. But we face the stark reality of our rainy-day fund approaching dangerously low levels, more than halved while the sun was shining, unstable and volatile revenue sources, extraordinary measures taken to dramatically slash previously approved state budgets because there simply was no money, state vendor payments manipulated, necessities deferred, retirement vacancies unfilled, hundreds of millions of dollars in business incentive obligations locked into a decade or more, sophisticated accounting maneuvers employed to produce the illusion of a constitutionally mandated balanced budget, and an accelerating plunge into a financial abyss. Faced with that reality, people have every right to hold us accountable to pandering to the human psyche's affinity for easy solutions and quick fixes that serve only to perpetuate ideologies that are the antithesis of the adaptations necessary for a viable future. In modern democracies, it is far too easy for the patently ignorant or unconscionably ambitious to cleverly exploit the latent proclivity for simplicity in order. In the not-too-distant future, this great Chamber will be filled with debates about the consequences of austerity, about closing state colleges, curtailing the four-lane highway program, selling public power assets, consolidating university departments with those in neighboring states, transitioning paved roads into gravel in depopulating counties, and abandoning the notion that every homestead is entitled to daily physical access to a state-operated K-12 system. So much of my time here was focused on taxation strategies that now leave you in the quicksand of three-quarters of a billion dollars a year in reduced revenue and hearing only demands for more quicksand. When I became county coroner, I received some good advice from my predecessor: When you have terrible news to deliver, spit it out, don't hem/haw around, use a sharp knife and thrust swiftly. So here it is when it comes to rural property taxes. There can be no property tax reduction for the agricultural

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

estates because there is no accessible place to get the money. The urban population generally has small estates, maybe a house and a modest pension, and all of that is exposed to the ravages of the nursing home and final medical expenses. Many live paycheck to paycheck with no equity to borrow against. Most urban heirs can expect to inherit little or nothing. In contrast, the agricultural estates that stand to gain the more from property tax manipulations are worth millions, sometimes tens of millions. The heirs, many of whom live out of state, stand to inherit those millions virtually tax free. It is hard for those estates to get much sympathy. To be sure, there is a sinful amount of special deals, perks, exemptions, and incentives which reduce the income and sales taxes paid by the special folks. Such perks are guarded like Fort Knox and protected by nothing less than extortion, the unabashed threat: We will just leave the state. But even if Fort Knox were to be successfully raided, there would be a long waiting list ahead of doling out to the more rural estates on top of the 25-percent valuation decrease they already receive. There can be no property tax reduction for the rural estates because there can't be. All that there can be is shell games, smoke and mirrors, and packs of lies. Our people deserve more honesty than that. Nor can there be some refuge in a petition drive. The simple truth is that the Legislature, caught between a rock and a hard place, has the people's express permission to nullify a petition with no more votes than it takes to end a filibuster. Taxes are one of the mechanisms of organizing capital to do what a society expects done, and sometimes they are the only mechanism. Economies will adjust to a stable and predictable tax system. Anomalous favors to one group or another serve only to disrupt that process. Death and taxes are certainties. Nothing in this Chamber can change that. One final observation: We live in a time when increasingly the past is cherished and the future is not welcome. In analyzing the pathology of our present predicament, our lack of candor with the public may be a consequence of a greater force. At the core of our democratic failure may be a university system that has failed in the mission of educating, of bringing forth that greatness that was within an aspiring peasant population fleeing the heavy hand of royalty and archbishops in search of freedom and opportunity. Can a university that shudders at the prospect of controversy and is panicked by the thought of its brand being weakened by a losing football season be relied upon to convey to the present the message of the future? The blessing and the curse of term limits bar me from further exploring that issue in this Chamber. It may come to pass that from time to time I will speak on these and other issues at voiceofnebraska.com, but for now, in this fleeting moment, time draws to a close and I must take leave of this Chamber. A sunset, a snowflake, a cloud formation, the gods give in limited ration to touch a soul and warm a heart, to last but a moment, then forever depart.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Schumacher. Senator Smith, would you come forward, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President and colleagues, what a great pleasure. And I thought it was going to be a great idea that I could go last and get the last word, but then I realized just a

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

few...about 10-15 minutes ago that I had to follow Senator Schumacher. Wow! You know, Senator Schumacher, I think that you just summed up every bill that you ever introduced in front of the Revenue Committee. I wished...I only wish you had been that brief in your introductions in Revenue Committee. (Laughter) But I...a great thing about going last is I can say that...kind of a ditto. So if I forget to mention any group or any individual, I think you probably have already been covered, but I do appreciate so much the eight years that I had here. And I think also I was noticing when Senator Larson was up here and he talked about being creative and he was encouraging everyone to be creative--I couldn't quite make it out--I was trying to watch the expression on Patrick's face and I couldn't tell if he was smiling or if that was fear. But, Senator Larson, you always brought out the best in Patrick, (laughter) that's for certain. We'll just say it was the best. But I want to start out by just recognizing my family that's here today: my daughter Regan Smith and my wife Ruth. My son Garrett couldn't be with us today, but I wanted to recognize them and especially thank Ruth for her sacrifice in allowing me to be down here. She had to do double duty, of course, while I was away from the business, so we've had a great experience and we will forever remember our time here. Also with Ruth today, she has a couple of friends from college, and I know they didn't want me to mention them, but a couple of friends--and I've introduced their state senator to them--Steve Brettmann and Steve Trausch, Steve Brettmann from Deshler and Steve Trausch from Hastings. They are avid watchers of NET coverage, and that should strike fear in all of you that they actually see, and they wanted to come down here today I think to see if it's half as much fun in person as it appears to be on TV. So what do you think, Brettmann and Trausch, is it...is...you know, so-so. I know...hey, but what about that Final Reading? Wasn't that fantastic? (Laughter) I wanted to thank...you know, I've had the great fortune of having great staff to work with over my eight years, and I wanted to thank Lisa Johns, Paul Henderson, Sally Schultz, and Anne Duda for working over the eight years to keep the wheels on the District 14 office. And special thanks to Lisa for enduring eight years with me, so, yes, she lasted the entire eight years. I don't know what that means exactly, Lisa, but, yes, you endured eight years. And also a big thanks to the committee staff. Thank you to Mike Hybl, a good friend, and for his service as legal counsel during my time as Chair of Transportation and Telecommunications. He's now executive director of the Public Service Commission, but it is so great to have him back from Washington and back serving our state. And thank you to Mary Jane Egr Edson, Kay Bergquist, and Krissa Delka for your hard work on the Revenue Committee, many long hours, and it's not an easy job. And I don't think anyone thinks it's an easy job, but you certainly do a lot for the Legislature in serving on that committee. During my eight years, I've enjoyed working with two of the country's finest governors, Governor Heineman and Governor Ricketts, and I know some of you here will only experience that one Governor. It's interesting to see kind of the span over two Governors. And I appreciate the relationships that I've developed in the Legislature and, yes, in the lobby. I know you many of you are up there and I was keeping a close eye on you as Senator Schumacher was making his comments. I'm forever grateful to the experiences and the friendships that I've developed with all of you and with the folks that represent various interests in the lobby. Some have, you know,

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

made it out to be a bad thing, but they were actually doing a good for an interest group or individuals and the information flows both ways and I hope that if you haven't taken advantage of that, that you take advantage in the future. I did not enter into this office with the expectation of any specific accomplishment. Rather, I came with a purpose to represent the businessmen and -women of our state and the entities that create the jobs and the quality of life for our families. And though that purpose continues on for others in this Legislature to pick up and to carry, I'm satisfied that I, nonetheless, made progress in my eight years. I'm satisfied with efforts to promote and strengthen our national and state energy industry. We created major pipeline siting authority to aid in the building of critical infrastructure like the Keystone Pipeline to create jobs, to stabilize U.S. energy supplies, and to strengthen our economy--very proud of that. And I supported and highlighted and sometimes defended, Senator Wayne, the role of our public power companies to provide reliable and affordable energy to our businesses and to our families. I'm privileged to have played a role in creating certainty in the completion of our statewide expressway system and improving our roads and our bridges during my time as Chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee with legislation like the Transportation Innovation Act, LB960, leaving Nebraska in a much better condition than many of the other states. And I'm very proud of my record as a champion for responsible tax policy and my consistent efforts to reduce the tax burden on our families and on our businesses. And as I've said many times, the right tax policy, good tax policy lends itself to a strong economy and an improved quality of life. In ending, as I leave the Unicameral Legislature, I see challenges ahead that George Norris never imagined, and many of these challenges have emerged in the eight years that I've been here and that I've served. There's no avoiding the challenges. Nebraska is a great and diverse state, but I am confident that there are solutions to be found when each member, each legislator looks beyond the borders of his or her district, seeks understanding, and fosters statewide views and perspectives. Finally, thank you to the 14th Legislative District for allowing me to serve. It's been a great ride.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Smith.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Speaker Scheer, could I invite you to come join me at the podium? It's my privilege and honor on behalf of all of the members to recognize our Speaker for his work these past years and, contrary to the rest of the body, I think you're better looking than Kolterman (laughter). Kris and your grandkids agree with that. And also I want to thank you for making three hours seem like three weeks most of the time, and for herding not only cats but prairie dogs. But from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your commitment. It's not easy doing this job that Jim Scheer volunteered to do. He has to work with all of us, the lobby, the Governor, all of the staff to make things happen, and he has done it masterfully, and I'm privileged and honored to call Jim my friend but also call him my Speaker. Please join me in recognizing our Speaker Jim Scheer. Speaker Scheer, you're recognized.

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, it's the last day of the week, so I suppose everybody wants to know what we're going to do next week (laughter). Got nothing. Mr. President, colleagues--it's coming--friends all (laughter), the One Hundred Fifth Legislature, Second Session, is now complete. It has certainly been an interesting one. There have been points this session where 60 days might have been...might as well have been an eternity and there were 60 days where it seemed like it was far too short. We accomplished much but we also left many items on the table as well. For the second session in a row, we found ourselves coming into a session with significant budget deficits, and I'm very extremely proud of our body as we were able to once again find a way to responsibly balance the budget. We had some notable accomplishments as well. To name a few, Senator Howard, Kuehn, and Lindstrom led us in an effort in the growing opiate epidemic. Senator Briese passed a bill just today that prevents parents with disabilities from having their disability used against them in a custody case. And although he's not here, Senator Groene passed his bill for the equine massage therapy and, I might just add, days before the International horse show in Omaha. Senator Murante had a bill to harmonize the speed limits on the highways. Senator Ebke and many others continue to lead the way in the fight over burdensome occupational licenses. Unfortunately, this session we are also left with some big issues on the table for future Legislatures to address. Among them are property tax reform, funding community development, Medicaid, marijuana policy, and many others. But we must keep in mind that just as those issues that we face, none of them materialized overnight and neither will the solutions as we move forward. It's been said over the past few years that the Legislature is becoming more and more partisan and that we're simply just dedicated to killing anything that's controversial. On some issues that might be the case. However, I would argue that more of the contentious bills that we debated this year had multipartisan support and opposition. This year we had 23 bills that were advanced out of committee that were prioritized that did not advance past General File. Now I'm not a math major and it's my interpretation, but 15 of those 23 bills that were not advanced were bipartisan bills. The senators on one side or the other changed on literally every one of those bills and every vote. It wasn't political views that stopped those bills; it was our philosophical points of view. We will never be all like-minded on every issue. It just can't happen. There are many bills this session that sponsors and committees worked very extensively with opponents, both on the floor and even before the debate started, to reach a consensus and to avoid all but a certain filibuster. Are we becoming more partisan, body? Maybe. I don't think so. But I'm not convinced that we're near the level of other legislators nationwide. Believe me, I've met with those folks. I know what they go through. I know what those bodies do. We truly are the gem of the Midwest and the nation. No one said that a senator would be easy. Many issue we cover are complex issues and all sides have concerns that they carry very close to their hearts. I know after today everyone is looking forward to taking some time off, but after that I encourage all of us that will be returning next year to start thinking about what we would like to accomplish, start working with other senators this summer on the big issues, sit down with those outside of your usual circle of support to explore ways that compromise can be reached. I truly believe that every person down

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

here is here for the right reasons and truly wants to make a difference for their constituents in our state. Despite our successes together, I am convinced that at times as a body we have gotten better at talking than listening. We are still able to work across the aisle and can get things done. We are so much better than other legislative bodies, but I believe we can do better, and we will. We have several members of the body that will not be returning next year. Those term-limited senators are Senator Brasch, Harr, Krist, Larson, Schumacher, and Smith. Thank you all for your years of service to this state. Notably, as I was thinking about items that I wanted to address, I wanted to make note that every one of those senators that are being termed out have served as a committee chair during their time here. This truly is an indicator of the caliber of individuals within this class. You all should be congratulated on all that you've done. We also have two senators that are leaving us after their first term, Senator Baker and Senator Kuehn, both of whom have made noticeable impact on the body during their time here and will be truly missed. It's been our honor and our privilege to serve with each of you and we as a body wish you well in the future in all your endeavors. Before I can leave, I'd like to say that before you go back and enjoy your lives in the real world outside of here, I'd be remiss not to thank a few individuals that literally keep the place running: Patrick O'Donnell, Clerk of the Court (sic)...Clerk of the Legislature--might as well be Clerk of the Court--nothing happens that he doesn't want to happen, believe me; Dick Brown, the Assistant Clerk; Carol, Diana, and Vicki, who get to sit up there and watch our smiling faces every day; and the rest of the Clerk's responsibility which includes the Bill Room, the transcribers, the Unicameral Information Office, the Legislative Technology Center, the Sergeant at Arms led by Jim Doggett. And specifically I want to draw attention this afternoon, colleagues, to Lois Dalton who will be retiring after 13 years of service to the Legislature. And of course, the pages, please stand up and be recognized. And I would tell Kitty Kearns to stand up but she may already be standing up. I'm not sure where she's at. Kitty. And for those of you that think you have a history of service, Kitty is finishing her 50th year this year. And as I like to call them my personal security crew, the State Patrol. The Fiscal Office, hey, we better clap for them. They take care of us. The Fiscal Office, led by Mike Calvert--and I...again, happy hunting in your years of retirement--and Tom Bergquist. The Revisor's Office, led by Joanne Pepperl and Marcia McClurg. Legislative Accounting and Budget Office, led by Diane Nickolite. The Legislative Research Division, led by Nancy Cyr. The Legislative Audit Division, led by Martha Carter. The Ombudsman's Office, led by Marshall Lux. Our President/presiding officer, Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley. Each senator's staff, both committee and district, and their district staff, thank you so much for all that you do for all of us. And thank you to NET for their gavel-to-gavel coverage. Thank you again for all your hard work and dedication this session, and please let's give those another round of applause that of great assistance to all of us. On a personal note, I'd like to thank each of you for placing your trust in me to serve as your Speaker for these last two years. I know that there...these sessions have been trying at times, but I hope that I have exceeded your expectations. It has truly been my honor to serve in this capacity and I thank all of you, again, for that opportunity. And one other item I do need to bring to the attention, Chuck came running up last week after Senator Brewer had filed his notice of perhaps

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

a special session, because he was concerned Senator Erdman's red light probably was going to be burning out and I think it's screwed up, too, because I thought I saw green a couple times today, so...but I advised him it was okay he could do the two-day shipping on the needed parts in case we do happen to go back into session. So with that, Mr. President, thank you, and I appreciate everyone's hard work.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you, Speaker Scheer. Clerk, for items?

CLERK: Mr. President, a communication from the Clerk to the Secretary of State regarding the transmittal of LB1121A. Communication from the Executive Board regarding appointments to the LR296 Committee. Bills read on Final Reading were presented to the Governor at 3:36 p.m. (re LB1005, LB117, LB194, LB299, LB449, LB496, LB670, LB729, LB731, LB731A, LB791, LB793, LB807, LB807A, LB845, LB873, LB953, LB957, LB989, LB998, LB1034, LB1034A, LB1065, and LB1120.) That's all that I have, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal page 1641.)
[LB1121A LR296 LB1005 LB117 LB194 LB299 LB449 LB496 LB670 LB729 LB731 LB731A LB791 LB793 LB807 LB807A LB845 LB873 LB953 LB957 LB989 LB998 LB1034 LB1034A LB1065 LB1120]

SPEAKER SCHEER PRESIDING

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Krist for a motion.

SENATOR KRIST: I move that all the bills not otherwise disposed of, excluding bills on Final Reading and vetoed on line-item vetoed bills, on this date be indefinitely postponed.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Krist. Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All opposed? So be. Senator Harr for a motion.

SENATOR HARR: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the Chairperson of all standing committees file with the Clerk of the Legislature all standing committee records so a proper record may be made of the final disposition of all bills.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Harr. Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. Any opposed? So moved. Senator Kuehn for a motion.

SENATOR KUEHN: Mr. President, I move that the Legislature approve the preparation and printing of the permanent Legislative Journal, session laws, and indexes by Patrick J. O'Donnell,

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

Floor Debate
April 18, 2018

and that he be directed to send to each member of the Legislature a copy of the permanent Legislative Journal and session laws.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All opposed? So moved. Senator Schumacher for a motion.

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: Mr. President, I move that the Legislature approve the Journal for the sixtieth day as prepared by the Clerk of the Legislature be approved.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. Any opposed say nay. So moved. And Senator Larson for one final motion.

SENATOR LARSON: Mr. President, I move that the One Hundred Fifth Legislature, Second Session, having finished all business before it, now, at 5:16 p.m., adjourn sine die.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All opposed? I believe, not positive, but pretty sure the ayes have it.