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LB 693

We are anticipating that there will be reductions, but we do not know what Congress will do. This piece of legislation says when you mandate it this way it does not say we shall either have an increase or a decrease simply because Congress has taken action after we have gone home. It is that simple. Lets not read something else into it. Do not adopt the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: (No response).

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler, do you wish to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I just wish to emphasize one last time that the Board of Equalization is going to need flexibility to anticipate the different situations that may arise. We should not make inflexible what I think would be bad law on the basis of one example that we have had this past year. Again I give you the example of what if the federal tax rate increases at some point and time. That means under this bill an automatic decrease in the Nebraska tax rates. An automatic decrease in Nebraska revenue. At the same time that we get that information we may have a bad farm year, grain prices may go to...or we may have a drought. The revenues that we are projecting may be well down. We may need that additional revenue that would come about by an increase in the federal income tax rate. We may need that. What is happening at the federal level will not always correspond or make sense with what is going on at the local level and we should retain our flexibility at the local level. We should allow the Governor to deal at the local level with the situation that exists. I say in this instance we should give, allow the Governor to retain the authority that he presently has, require that they meet but don't mandate that they make a change in each and every situation. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: All those in favor of the Beutler amendment vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting no.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 5 ayes, 17 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: The motion lost. We are going to stop here