

we argued over LB 775 a couple of years ago and it was one of the worst experiences I think any of us in the body had ever had and in my 11 years here in the Legislature. It tore apart people. It tore friends apart, it tore individuals apart within themselves as they thought about the issues and the conflicting demands that were being placed on them as ConAgra threatened to leave the state, as other businesses joined forces with ConAgra as they all said, circle the wagons, boys, if we don't get what we want, we're out of here. And as we fought with that struggle as the economy was in shambles through the ag crisis and the other problems that we had in Nebraska, we finally, eventually, many of us with concerns, advanced and passed LB 775. Now I was one of those people. I voted for the bill. Senator Ashford talked about this. It has had a dynamic impact on a few companies in Omaha and, of course, across the state there are many companies that have applied and received the breaks. The question is, how many would have qualified and done the job and created the investment anyway. But, nevertheless, we were in a crisis and we reacted to that crisis. And then after we passed that bill, I've dedicated myself to reviewing its impacts and dedicated myself to understanding its problems and its good points and its bad points and the conclusion I come down to is, LB 775 ought to remain in some form in our laws. At the same time, it ought to be corrected where errors are found and one of those errors is being addressed by LB 437 by Senator McFarland. One of those errors is that we have had businesses applying for and receiving these credits and then cutting jobs. I also find in the amendment that I'm offering eventually to this bill, that the other flaw in this legislation is the accountability, that we have not provided for an accounting to the taxpayers of the state of what they are getting back for the investment they make through the credits that they provide under LB 775. And so I think those two flaws are the two things we need to address in this session in 1989 and there are further flaws that will need to be addressed next year and following years as we try to correct the problems with this piece of legislation, a very important piece of legislation. But for right now, I would like to ask that my amendment be withdrawn. I'm going to support Senator McFarland and further address his bill, but I think in fairness to Senator McFarland, and he and I have discussed this, we want to see a direct vote on his particular proposal so that we can address the issue of jobs and its maintenance and not the loss of jobs under LB 775 and I would want to address that later on the bill. But rather than cloud the issue by interjecting the disclosure and accountability provisions I will wait to