

them probably would not have invested without this bill. And when you realize only 54 of them invested out of the thousands of small businesses out there, we have had to plateau very high for them to qualify. So I don't know that we're even giving them a break. I think we're giving them what they've got coming and what they deserve. So I would sure like to see...I think we had what, 40 votes to advance the bill? I would like to see those same 40 vote no and get this amendment knocked in the creek and let's move on with our business. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I think this is a very interesting philosophical debate on the role of government and the role of the private sector and I think it's important that we listen to Frank Korshoj when he talks about this bill and this amendment because Frank Korshoj is a small business man entrepreneur. He is out in the trenches every day trying to sell a product at wholesale and he is subject to the vagaries of the market in a small town in Nebraska. So I think his perspective on LB 270 is a very valid one and an important one to listen to. And I, too, rise to oppose the efforts to roll back the LB 270 amendments and I would continue my support for LB 335 as it was originally introduced by Senator Rogers. I think sometimes in Lincoln as oftentimes is the case in Washington that we get so consumed with government and the largess of government and the size of government that we forget about what funds government. And what funds government are the small businesses, not the large businesses in the state but the small businesses, the small businesses like Frank Korshoj's business and others that form the foundation of our economy, along with the farm economy in Nebraska. So I think that we need to...to look at that sector of the economy and continually try to improve it. It is a...it seems to me extremely valid when the Department of Revenue comes to us and says that LB 270 has been underutilized. I think it was underutilized for a couple of reasons. I think it's been underutilized to be fair because it was not a bill that required an application process. It's a bill that only the effect of which only comes to the fore after a tax return is filed. But, even given that, I think that the \$1,500 figure is a fair and reasonable figure and the \$75,000 figure is a fair and reasonable figure. And I think as you judge these amendments, you need to take a look at what hits you in the right way, what is a balanced number. Senator Chizek, when he introduced LB 270, did introduce it at the