

agreement, outside of the \$20.5 million figure that we had talked about some years ago. At that time, we weren't really sure of the extent of the losses. The losses were greater than we thought they would be. So it's not fair to say that the Commonwealth depositors got their money, now they're coming back for more. They didn't, they didn't get their money, they got much less than they had hoped for and it's only fair and right that they come back. To treat them fair and the other depositors fair you need to return all of their deposits, all of their investment that they lost. So I think it's simply inappropriate to try and characterize the Commonwealth people as coming back, coming back, and if we give them this, they'll come back for more. That's not the case. If we can deal with this issue, deal with this amendment, pass this bill, we'll be done. I promise, as a strong supporter of the Commonwealth, State Securities people, I won't be back again. The interest will have to be lost. It will be something we just give up in the process. It's a substantial amount of money that these people have lost in interest, but if we can at least get their principal back, the issue will be gone as far as I'm concerned and I think as far as the other co-sponsors will be gone (sic), we will be done with it, it will be over, we won't come back every year, and we can finally rectify the wrong that has been done to these people and justice will be served. I really believe that, and I hope you'll help us with that. I also hope you'll have a chance to read the Attorney General's Opinion as you consider this. I'm going to quote from that. This is Attorney General Spire, I believe the courts would agree with the Legislature, there can be no more important public purpose than public confidence in government, and the public confidence in government is directly involved here. Through LB 356, the Nebraska Legislature is making a good faith effort to address the situation which has seriously eroded confidence in state government. In LB 356, the Legislature clearly describes the circumstances and public purpose it is addressing based upon those circumstances. In my judgment the courts would uphold the action of the Legislature here as a fulfillment of an appropriate public purpose as identified and described by the elected representatives of the citizens of Nebraska. In other words, it is the right and just thing to uphold public confidence in government, and public confidence in government was eroded by making a promise that wasn't kept, by saying there was a guaranty that we didn't fulfill, by not returning the people their deposits which we told them the state would back. So I would ask you to help us suspend the rules, consider this