

as if we're...and we're not just talking about the users. I think we need to be very careful to protect ourselves from being a haven for the processing, for the growing, the storage. Some of these parts in the channel of the drug distribution could very easily see Nebraska, by not having such a tax standard like we see in our neighboring states, to be somewhat of a place that at least the cost of doing business would be cheaper in Nebraska for some of those larger activities as well as simply the use and the consumption of the drug. I think it would be extremely important there. We had a criminal bust a year or two ago that was of very large proportions. We had criminal provisions on board and probably the only criminal activity was the confiscation of the drug in terms of what we can do, the criminal confiscation of the drug and the criminal charges that were directed towards the person who was driving the car and the U-Haul trailer that was connected with that transportation, at a point where we may find that the transportation system may not want to cross Nebraska with large volumes, when, in fact, there would be such a tax connection. And if we can prove ownership across that spectrum or across those vehicles or anything else that is taxable, we would then generate additional revenue for them using our state as their means to produce, store or to transport the drug. I think that's where a great deal of the value of this particular proposal comes in. And this happens regardless of whether or not you have been able to successfully have a criminal prosecution. The very fact that it was in their possession, if it was...ownership is proven, then the tax is due to the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CONWAY: So I think with those kinds of concerns, this bill or this amendment is not drastically altering the concept. The concept is to tax the drug and the amendment as it was developed was basically in part to appease the Department of Revenue and some of what their concerns would be in trying to administer this law. The concept is still there. We're going to charge a...have a civil penalty, charge a tax for all of these various activities associated with drug trafficking in the State of Nebraska. So, with that, I urge the adoption of the amendment that is in front of you, 2218.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You have heard the closing. The question is the adoption of the Conway amendment to LB 260. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the Conway