

questions about fairness as a result of that and I think, obviously, those that receive the benefits like them. You can see the results of that with LB 775 and other types of benefits like that. But I think you also have a recognition that there are other businesses, the vast majority of which do not receive assistance. So the intent, I think, of providing tax breaks has raised a lot of questions of equity. Now what we're talking about here with 11CA is to move that competition, that assistance from the state where at least you have across the state, the equity issue, but you also have everybody across the state has ability to receive this assistance, to trying to bring that down to a local level and in doing so, I think you engender some hard feelings and acrimony that could lead to divisions far into the future that will divide the state and harm the state as an overall economic development tool instead of helping the state. Now here's...here is my thought. I know Senator Landis has already addressed this and I'm passing out an article in which he talked about these concerns, but if you allow every city to get involved in the idea of providing assistance of this break or that break or this assistance or that assistance by amending our constitution. You get into a competition of city versus city and competition in most people's eyes is good and our capitalist system is based on competition, but at the same time the sort of competition we're talking about here is not healthy in my view. In fact, the sort of competition we've had state against state has led to a lot of harmful effects and to bring that down to city versus city, I think only compounds what has been recognized as a problem in economic development for a long time. We should have the Norfolks and the Columbuses and the Fremonts and the Lincoln and the Omahas and the Scottsbluffs and the Alliances all trying to work together to try and bring industry, to bring economic development to Nebraska, and once we attract in industry, once we help our own businesses to grow, then they can decide from among us where the site would best suit their needs rather than trying to compete against each other, I think in a harmful way to try and bring that business specifically to Norfolk or specifically to Beatrice or specifically to Grand Island and although some of that does go on, obviously currently, that goes on on the private sector. Chambers of commerce, private business people put up monies and they try and persuade companies to come to their cities and I think that's absolutely fine. The private sector is able to do and should be able to do whatever they want to, to encourage growth and economic development, but once you bring the public funds into it you raise another issue and there I draw the line