

signal out there, folks, because it isn't going to do anything this year because all personal property is going to be exempt for one year. But where it is going to take effect, if we don't find a long-term solution, is January 1, 1992, and why should we send that wrong signal out to these businesses and industries that want to locate in Nebraska or want to expand in Nebraska? And I know some of you folks say, well, it's rural versus urban. Well, it really...I represent a predominantly rural area and LB 775 has helped rural Nebraska too, and besides, we can't keep all of those young people in our area, but we don't want them to go out of our state. Look at how much we spend for higher education. We spend over a quarter of a billion dollars and yet when we graduate these students we say, leave our states, we don't have a job for you. LB 775 has changed that, not for every student, but it has changed it for a lot of students and this is why we do not want to send that wrong message out. So I would say oppose the Hall amendment and then I'm sure, I'm certain that we can find a long-term solution for our property tax problems. All we do, all we need to do is all work together, all get around the table, get all the special interest groups in there, get the legislators in there, get the administration in there and we can find a solution, but we need a little time. And as for some of these companies having to file a lawsuit, this is bad PR for them. We shouldn't force them to do it. Let's live up to our word, let's vote down the Hall amendment, work on the long-range plan and then go from there. So I would urge you to oppose the Hall amendment at this time.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Hall, about a half an hour ago when you first introduced this I probably would have supported this amendment. You talked about the intent of it being prospective and not retrospective. But in the interim, we have learned that, indeed, this would be retrospective. In fact, when you spoke and answered some questions you talked about, well, it would be only prospective because those who have already signed contracts can just go and sue the state for breach of contract. That makes me very nervous, not to mention how expensive a process I think that would be. We made a commitment in LB 775 and I supported LB 775 and I do agree with Senator Hefner. It has made a difference in our western, central and north and south Nebraska, as well as in eastern Nebraska, and in that regard it has been effective. I think it