

live up to it.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schellpeper.

**SENATOR SCHELLPEPER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise to oppose this reconsideration. I guess I think that maybe yesterday we probably did something that this body had to do sometime with this problem we are having with our personal property taxes. Whether we did it yesterday or whether we do it in one of our final days this session, or a special session, it is something that eventually we are going to have to do. Now I realize the income tax is probably a little more viable than the sales tax. The sales tax probably is going to have to be replaced with something else, eventually. I think there is some plans being presented out here that can replace the sales tax. But I think the income tax and the rest of the amendment need to stay. We can change, just take the sales tax out of it, maybe, if there is objections, which there probably are. But we need to go with a plan like that that is fair to agriculture and fair to rural Nebraska. The sales tax, statewide, would be 5 1/2 percent with this amendment, except in Omaha, which it would be 7. But, otherwise, statewide, it would be 5 1/2 percent. I realize that is high for some people, but we need to make up this \$95 million, and that is our problem is making up how we are going to get this \$95 million. Now I think by having the income tax, the top two brackets which we did yesterday, is not going to be a hardship on most people. We have to hit about the same people that we are hitting...that are going to be losing off of the corporation tax or the personal property tax. Now we can probably use some corporation tax. We can probably use some other methods of taxation to make up for the sales tax, but the amendment, itself, with the rest the way that it is put together, I think, needs to probably stay. We had the amendment yesterday drafted before the Lamb amendment was adopted, and that is why we have them both on. We didn't catch it until after they were both adopted. Otherwise, we wouldn't have had this problem. We would have had the amendment on. But I think if you'll look at the support for doing something like this, it has to be considered in the solution to our personal property taxes. You can't look at just raising the energy tax, and you can't look at raising just the surtax on depreciation, you have to consider everything. And I think everything is...also has to include sales and income taxes. So let's not take this amendment off. Let's leave this amendment