

thumbnail reading of the law in a very quick fashion when you were...we were gauging in our dialogue previously. Since then I've talked to the...to the committee staff, and he's pointed out to me exactly the way the tax changes would be phased in. Near as we can tell, there would be a doubling of the percentage that any given track is paying out. So, assuming that the revenue levels remain the same as they do now, as they have been in the last year or so, Ak-Sar-Ben, for example, paid \$272,000 in taxes in 1991 so, obviously, you'd double that, that's 540 some odd thousand dollars in taxes.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, now we've got the dollar impact squared away. Therein lies another...my second concern, I guess, I have about this bill. We have heard a lot, or I have read a lot in the paper and heard a lot on the radio about how the taxpayers won't be affected by Douglas County purchasing Ak-Sar-Ben. And I sat there and said, well, as long as it doesn't cost people money I'm supportive of that. Well, this amendment, I would make the argument in some ways that you're not actually taking money away, you know, if the bill...if the bill goes...if the taxing struc...law goes as it is right now, that's 100, 200 thousand dollars that will be going into the General Fund. With this amendment, it would no longer go there. Who does that cost? Well, eventually that's going to cost not the taxpayers of Douglas County, you're absolutely right, it's going to cost the taxpayers of the state, all to make the package better for Douglas County to go...follow through with this deal. And I guess that's where my problem is. I'm not...I certainly have not been opposed, as Senator Ashford already mentioned, last year I brought the bill in to have a private entity buy this. That didn't work. I want...I want to be supportive of Douglas County doing this, but I guess, at this point in time, it's one of those things that, no, it won't cost the Douglas County taxpayers anything, but this amendment, I would argue at least in years to come the taxpayers of the State of Nebraska will be subsidizing that purchase, and that's what I have a little bit of a problem with, because as Senator Landis has mentioned very firmly, once, twice, three times, the third time now, and this time it's not because of the health of the industry, it's to make the whole purchase deal better, and it's 100, 200 thousand dollars that would not be going to the General Fund in '94, as scheduled. So, in essence, I could make a very strong argument that, no, Douglas County taxpayers aren't going to help pay for the purchase of that, but by adopting this amendment, indirectly, certainly the taxpayers of the State of Nebraska, by