

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose this amendment. Like Senator Hall said, this is LB 1063 and, Senator Hall, I've got to give you credit, this is a good legislative maneuver because all you'll need now is a simple majority to adopt this amendment, and I heard you say you were going to vote against the amendment. Well, that's good. But I don't think this amendment should be offered to this bill. Let's debate LB 1120 as the Revenue Committee advanced the bill, and that's with the committee amendments. Then we can see how many votes we have. I don't know whether we've got enough votes. We need 25 votes. I don't know whether we have them. Maybe we do and maybe we don't, but at least we can find out where everybody stands, where all of the senators that is in this body stands and then we can go from there. This here amendment is 220 pages long. I know a lot of you haven't had time to look at it because we just got it on our desk and there was no simple summary attached to it, so we don't know exactly what's in there, but taking Senator Hall's word for it, it sounds like it's LB 1063 and I think this is unfair. And let me tell you why I think it's unfair. LB 1063 will be disastrous for the rural economy, could cause some of our farmers, especially our beginning farmers who have just bought a lot of machinery, to go broke, and here's why. It is going to be a double whammy for farmers. Take a \$100,000 tractor or a \$100,000 combine, first, this farmer will pay the 5 percent, 5 percent sales tax. This is \$5,000 right up front, right up front. Then if he depreciates it down to \$80,000 the first year which according to a lot of them, accountants, they can do, maybe not all of them, but some of them they can do this. If they are in a 2 percent taxing district, that will mean that they will pay \$1,600 the first year in property taxes. So add that to the 5,000 and that's \$6,600. And we're, in northeast Nebraska, we're just getting a lot of these young farmers started. They have gone out and bought their machinery. They've got a high depreciation on it at the present time, so that will hurt them very badly. I think this is unfair to do this because to adopt this amendment, it will only take a simple majority and I don't know whether all of you are listening or not, but this is adding 1063, LB 1063 to LB 1120 with the amendment that Senator Hall is offering. I just want you to take note of that and I would encourage you to vote no and then we can get back to the committee amendments on LB 1120 and see how many of us would like to go this way. I feel that 1120 is a more fair bill because LB 1120...