

balcony, eleven-thirty. That's all that I have.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, Senator Hillman, do you have closing?

SENATOR HILLMAN: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I totally agree with Senator Hall that says, you know, the state's economy depends upon taxation no matter where it goes, and it does. Anything that we decide as a body eventually to come out with tax policy definitely will drive and determine the future economics in the State of Nebraska. The reason I bring this amendment is because I believe it just very selectively, again, does something that though it is proposed to put a tax on business, doesn't really do that. In this case though it selects a few businesses, that tax probably won't stay as a business tax. In the case of Western Sugar which I've used as an example from western Nebraska, it is a high energy user. That tax will not go on to the person that produces the product, or that buys the product, it will go back to the producer. The other ones that are included in this amendment, because it does strike the entire amendment, are hospitals which would go on to the individual again who pays health care. It goes on to companies that produce electricity that would use energy to produce that that would sell it. If another company buys that energy it would then be taxed again. I just don't feel that it is something that has been well thought through or is overall up front a tax that says exactly how it is going to go down. The other thing I'd like to have you keep in mind, that there was a report done several years ago on new seeds for Nebraska that said agriculture was the number one industry in the State of Nebraska. Second is manufacturing, but 60 percent of that manufacturing depends upon ag. That talks a lot about food processing. Being able to do a better job with what we do which is to grow food. There is going to come a time on this floor where, yes, we're going to look at taxing agriculture and how we're going to do that, but I think we need to be able to do it in such a manner that we say this is how we're going to do it, not that we're going to tax manufacturing or it's going to be passed on to ag. Let's, I believe, defeat this amendment because it's not well done, it is selective, it doesn't show a true picture of who actually will be paying the tax and then when it comes time that each company or agriculture will pay their tax, it will do it in a form so they will know who was going to pay the tax. I would ask you to support the amendment.