

had...there was a similar proposal, although much different, but similar in its effect to say we ought to look at a new taxing system in this state, we ought to look at new ideas, we ought to look at new approaches as opposed to rethinking the old system that we have in place. We ought to move to the future. And that's just what Senator Elmer does in this approach. He says, let's take a look at something other than the old system of taxing merely property, a few sales transactions, and then income. Let's look at gross receipts in this case. It...I mean the biggest advantage of this kind of a proposal is the reduction of property tax that an individual would see. It is clearly, has always been, and always will be the one thing that members of this body continue to talk about year in and year out, election after election with regard to the cost of property taxes and how excessive they are. There is very good arguments for keeping some types of government revenues raised through property taxes. I'm glad to see that this is not a complete wipe out of property taxes, if you will, but that it does allow for a reduction, a very large deduction...reduction in property taxes. The question here is, and it will continue to be, and I think it should be addressed, and I'm going to address it in an amendment later on, that what happens and how do we pay for the costs of education. Clearly, they represent the largest share of the property tax bill. It has continued to be an argument as to whose responsibility it is. The State of Nebraska has moved a long way over the past 1059, in taking over a greater share of that responsibility. What proposal that Owen puts before us does, it says, look, we need to pick up more of that cost of education at the elementary and secondary level. I would agree with that. The gross receipts tax is one way to approach it. There are other ways that need to be addressed. I think that 1059 was the first step, not the final step, with regard to addressing the cost of education. And you address the cost of education through additional revenue sources at the state level, therefore hopefully reducing the reliance on property taxes, which has been a problem all along, and frankly it's one of the reasons we're here today, as was said earlier, in looking at 1063 and some of the other bills behind it. So, with that, I would like to hear some discussion with regard to what other folks feel about these types of proposals, because clearly they are easy to disregard because they are new proposals, they are new ideas, they are new concepts as it relates to what we understand and are comfortable with in our old tax system. But I don't think they should be discounted just merely for that purpose. I really applaud Senator Elmer for bringing this