

going to do it because of their performance base. I think Senator Ashford talked about performance base. You know, roughly a third of this Legislature has never heard that discussion over 775. I think what Senator Moore is doing, although maybe a good ploy and it certainly is something we ought to talk about, some of the other speakers have discussed that, but at least from my point in view, those performance based exemptions and so on confuse the issue, cloud the issue and are done just to make this a bigger boil and a bigger mess. What we really need to get back to is the discussion is 1063 a good piece of legislation or not, and, two, whether we need a constitutional amendment. I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Wickersham, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll try to be brief because I know we want to move the debate along. I have to rise and oppose the Moore amendment and I do so on principle because I do think that if we're going to have a property tax structure in the State of Nebraska, it is necessary to have exemptions in that system. We've consistently used exemptions for various purposes, primarily to promote economic activity or to not tax classes of property where we saw that it was not worthwhile to do so. And I think that 775, although from time to time I've had misgivings about that as a matter of policy and wondered whether it really did anything for the State of Nebraska that the proponents thought it did, the principle that is embodied in the personal property tax exemptions that we're talking about here is one that I think is valid and I'm going to have an amendment a little bit later today that will also create exemptions in the personal property tax structure. Now, at this point, I would characterize 775 as being the big business property tax exemptions. I'm going to have an amendment that will speak to the small business property tax exemptions so you can have a \$10,000 exemption each year. So, as a matter of principle, I think we ought to have some exemptions in the personal property tax structure, they are necessary as a matter of economic incentives and I will vote against the Moore amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Moore, you're next.