

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam President and members of the body, I think that this is obviously not an appropriate time of the day at five forty-seven as people are beginning to weary a little bit. It's not a good time of the day to bring the amendment, but for our process it probably is a good idea before we get all the way down the road with the one alternative that we take one last look at the other alternative. And I think that's what Senator Hall is doing here and it's appropriate that we do that. I would urge you not to support it and I'm going to work from Senator Hall's explanation sheet that was handed out earlier, LB 1063, AM3299. First of all, this amendment will reverse the course that we are on with LB 1063 which is to broaden the property tax base to wind up further narrowing the property tax base. And my concern with continuing to narrow the personal property tax base is that we, as the history of this body is, even if we replace the revenues today dollar for dollar, which I doubt if we will, I assume if this amendment becomes adopted and becomes serious, we will be taking the same sort of look at individual pieces within this puzzle that we did several days ago and the individual pieces will be coming out. But I do not think repeal of personal property tax, further narrowing the property tax base makes good policy. In terms of the argument that in counties such as Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster there will be less personal property on the tax rolls as a result of passing 1063, just don't understand it. Every piece of information I have received from the Department of Revenue involves, comes with the conclusion that there will be more property on. Ag property will be added on plus the net book value method particularly with the number of the safeguards we've added to it. I would have preferred to see Senator Hillman's go on, but it didn't, there will be more property taxed. Now I know Senator Hall says that there won't be. The information I have from the Department of Revenue indicates that there will be. It's a difference of opinion as to whose numbers you believe. Second thing that this bill does, I guess I have no real problems with the general homestead exemption of \$10,000 which is different, considerably different than preceding methodologies that have been contained within the bill. I would hope that there would be a considerable amount of discussion about that provision prior to anybody buying onto this particular plan. The...finally it's made up through a series of taxes, primarily new taxes, repair labor of \$18 million, a general sales tax, not a general sales tax on services but a sales tax on services on specific services that I do not think make good tax policy at this point, continuation of the energy