

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, I know Senator Warner and Senator Withem do a good job of making the argument that people like myself are the ones that are being inconsistent. I think it's actually the other way around. I mean, I have consistently said the prudent course tax policy wise for the State of Nebraska is to exempt all property from taxation 'cause it's just, like I said, taxing personal property is like trying to catch smoke in a net. It can't be done. It can't be done fairly, consistently said that. I've consistently said that if you're going to buy off on this whole taxing scheme of LB 1063, I've consistently said you ought to treat everybody the same. That's why I came very forcefully and tried to take 775 exemptions out. I've consistently said that time and time again. I've consistently said that the railroads have a winner in a lawsuit and I was consistently, not by Senator Warner or maybe not by Senator Withem directly, consistently said forget about it, this is going to work, we don't need to worry about that. I think if anybody's being inconsistent on this floor it's the supporters of LB 1063. They said time and time again on floor debate, they said time and time again in the press and debates all around that the railroads...the reason 1063 was going to work was you finally treated everybody the same. You finally tax all depreciable property. And the railroads were whistling Dixie when they thought they had a lawsuit case because 1063 finally fixed that. You had no herky-jerky exemptions any longer and the railroads are now going to pay, and consistently said 1063's fine, you're throwing a red herring, you're dragging a red herring across the landscape when you talk about the railroads filing suit and winning. And now, when the railroads do threaten to file suit, what happens? Inconsistently, I would add, the supporters of LB 1063 said, you're right, maybe they do have a lawsuit, maybe they are going to win, maybe we better do something about it. And so I don't think I'm the one being inconsistent. Maybe...maybe some of the supporters of LB 1063 convinced me this thing would stand a court challenge. They said time and time again, week after week, month after month it was going to work, and I guess maybe it is a little sour grapes on my part. I was beaten into submission saying that I was whistling Dixie on the railroads lawsuit and then, all of a sudden, now it's a real threat. And I am the one being inconsistent? I don't think so. I think the supporters of this measure are the ones that are being inconsistent. They're the ones that tried to sell the state and