

November 10, 1992 LB 1

was a great deal of concern among some of us about changing it from a refund to a straight-up exemption because of the tracking question. And, I guess, the language that we needed to have to track these expenditures was not in the original amendment as drafted by Senator Baack and that was, I think, purely an oversight. But I have pulled out a couple of tax expenditure reports from 1991 and 1992 and I think just in preparation for this question that's coming up, one of the things I've always felt is, for instance, on LB 775 we were able to track the losses of revenue because we put in place a corporate income tax credit so that we knew exactly what kind of amount of credits and obligations we would build. We did provide for a refund on sales taxes so we could have an idea of how much we were providing under that provision in 775. But then there is the exemptions on personal property, such as for airplanes and computers, and, unfortunately, we do have some guesstimates of that situations. But exemptions are harder to track than refunds and that's one of the reasons that we had the refund in the original bill that was passed. So, in my view, having a tracking mechanism is essential so that we know exactly what the situation is, so that we know what kind of revenue loss we're experiencing and also so that we know for the purposes of assessment that we have that information available to the local county assessors. I understand the Moore amendment takes care of that and my hope is that we will adopt the Moore amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Hall. Senator Baack.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, Madam President, and colleagues, I rise in support of the Moore amendment because I, you know, this is something that people wanted us to have a tracking mechanism for these purchases. It makes it much easier for the Department of Revenue when they go to making estimates as to purchases and how many pieces of equipment that fall under this category being purchased. So I have no problem with a tracking mechanism built in. There is some concern right now. I think that the amendment says it would go into place immediately. We might need to delay that till January 1 to allow forms and stuff to be printed for that to happen. So we may want to amend this amendment to do that because we may have some problems with the January 1, unless we do it until January 1. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Baack. Senator Warner.