

Wesely amendment? Seeing none, Senator Wesely, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Again, it seems to me that approaching the issue in a businesslike fashion is what I'm suggesting, a quid pro quo, that, yes, we want the jobs and we want the investment and we're willing to prove tax breaks to accomplish that goal. But let's target what kind of jobs we're going to attract into the State of Nebraska. If we bring in jobs that our current companies are having trouble filling now, the same type of level of income and wages, then I don't think that we really gain particularly from this. We have basically no taxes paid by the company coming in, so we don't have the ability to meet some of the demands that are brought by this additional infrastructure needs. And at the same time by not attracting in the out-of-state people to fill these jobs, you don't build the base of population, and I think you don't accomplish the goals of the bill. So having a minimum wage, having a minimum benefit level in terms of health care is essentially what I think we need to have. Now Senator Withem is correct in that the draft of the amendment doesn't accomplish the goal of what I had in mind, and I didn't have a chance to review that. What I had in mind was these companies that come in to get the credit would have to have a minimum of an 11 dollar an hour job. They could have lower paying jobs, but they wouldn't get the credit. So the point is that if you want the credit you have a decent paying job. If you bring in another type of job, no, that's great, we're glad to have the job, but you don't get the credit. This amendment, drafted as it does, doesn't accomplish that. But I hope...I know you aren't particularly paying much attention to what's being discussed here. But the point that I'm trying to make is that the accomplishment of bringing in a Micron, the accomplishment of bringing in a Pfizer is all wonderful until you look sometimes at the consequences and impacts of those companies. They can be wonderful and they should be wonderful, in these cases it sounds like it. But we have also seen packing plants come into cities where housing has been placed in jeopardy, where problems have resulted in the community, and where no particular taxes were being paid by the company to help alleviate those additional demands on services and needs of the community. So there is an upside to bringing in a company, but there is also a downside. By targeting in on higher paying jobs, you emphasize the positive and you negate the chances for more negative results from the decision. But based on the fact that the amendment