

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Wesely, there are no other lights on so if you want to turn your light on, you will be able to continue to speak. It is your third time on the amendment. You will also have an opportunity to close.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. So why I am making this suggestion is it's not just because I want good jobs to be brought into the State of Nebraska, which is very important to me, adequate pay and adequate benefits, but the impact of a Micron and other companies and on public service in the State of Nebraska can't be ignored. You have to recognize that. The jobs will be there. That's wonderful. But what we were talking about before, and companies have talked to me about since, is the problem of we need employees, we need an influx of individuals into this state. And, if you will remember, Maxine Moul was talking about the fact that you're not going to attract out-of-state people into a job that doesn't have good pay and good wages. So you're not going to get, for an eight dollar an hour job, people coming from Kansas and from Missouri and from wherever there may be extra employees looking for work, they're not going to come here for those. They will come though if you pay the 15 dollar an hour job or the 12 dollar an hour job and you've got some benefits, or the 10 dollar an hour job that have really good benefits. I think, below that, you're not going to be able to attract, but you might be able to get, at a decent wage and benefit level, people coming from out of state. Now that's what we want because then you have the out-of-state people, you build the base of the State of Nebraska, you don't impact the other companies, you don't take away employees from other employers that are already in the State of Nebraska. That's what we want but that's not what you're going to get if you don't have something along the lines that I'm offering. If you don't have an 11 dollar an hour minimum wage and benefit level, or something to that effect, then how do you know what you're going to end up with? And I can tell you, you don't know what you're going to end up with. You're going to end up with a situation that's going to play out and ultimately have this action leading to another action, a consequence. And that's...that's the concern I have. Now there are other options, obviously, besides the...let me play through the scenario a little bit as well. Let's say Micron comes in, they take employees away from other employers, so the options for the existing companies is raise wages and raise benefits, and I understand that that was something of concern in a hearing just