

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. And as you come in, please check in while Senator Wesely closes on his amendment. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this issue was up earlier in LB 830 but it's really more appropriately addressed in LB 829. The reason is that what we're saying is you don't have to have every job at \$11 in wages and benefits. What we're saying is if you come here and you want a tax break, for that tax break, for that individual job, we're going to expect \$11 in wages and benefits. It's a quid pro quo. You don't have to do it. You don't have to come here with 11 dollar jobs, but if you want this particular tax break provided under LB 829, then you get your side of the deal and we're going to get our side of the deal which is to say let's not...let's deal with this in a businesslike fashion. What is our...what is our gain out of it? Jobs, that's great. But I'll tell you something, there are some negative sides to having some lower paid jobs out there and, as I said earlier, those low pay jobs without benefits have an ultimate public cost when their health care needs aren't met and the other problems that can arise from that, and if you scoop up a lot of employees across the State of Nebraska and bring them to work for Micron or whoever else comes with this with low paying jobs, you're going to have an employee crunch that's going to hurt other small employers out there. This isn't just an amendment to help the workers to get them a decent wage and benefit. Senator Chambers is right. Senator Hall is right. We can do better by our tax breaks to help the workers, to help get the jobs that we want to have, to have an incentive out there for decent paying jobs, and that's what we're saying here. This is the chance to do it. This is the chance when they've come in and asked something of us, now we're asking something of them. So this is our moment to ask something back and what I'm asking back is to make sure the jobs are good jobs. But it's not just an attempt to try and help those workers that are hired to make sure they get paid a decent wage, to make sure they have health care, that's certainly one of my concerns, but more than that there's a bigger concern here, and I keep emphasizing this, and I hope that you will think about this, that is that just a few months ago we kept talking about we didn't have enough employees, we've got to do something about employees, we've got to attract more employees in here. And then Maxine Moul talked about, you know, the real problem here is if the jobs paid well enough, if the benefits were there, you wouldn't have to have all this talk and all this problem of not having employees because they would