

against the bill being advanced in part because of my concern about the lack of reporting. The committee amendment does require a report to be issued, but all it says is that there will be a report and it doesn't say what will be in the report. Basically that could be very helpful or it could be next to nothing and the idea of this tax program, this tax break program is different than let's say in LB 775 or some of the other proposals we have because there are certain criteria and standards that have to be met in order to qualify. So you have to meet a threshold or accomplish some sort of target before you actually qualify for a tax break in our previous legislation. This is a new approach. This says there will be something or other done by the Economic Development Commission and by the Governor but it doesn't really specify what and then there's \$6 million there available to give to somebody and that's it basically. Then we add in here that there's a report back but the only real accountability would be specifically knowing where the money went to and if it went inappropriately, if it did not accomplish the goal of making sure there's some jobs created or investment made in the State of Nebraska, that would be about the only check and balance in this proposal under the way it is drafted right now. And so I think very specific information in the report is valuable to hold the fund accountable to the Legislature and to the public. Without this, essentially you've got \$6 million with very little or any oversight by the Legislature either in statute or otherwise. So I don't think there's an objection by Senator Engel and the department on this amendment. I believe that they're supportive of it, but I hope that we can adopt this because it would ease at least some of my concerns about the very loose targeting and oversight that we have in the bill currently. With that I'd ask for adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Is there any discussion of the Wesely amendment? Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I, too, agree with Senator Wesely. I think it enhances the bill rather than detracts from it so we're in total support of it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Engel. Any further discussion? Seeing none, Senator Wesely, do you wish to close? Closing is waived. The question before you is the adoption of the Wesely amendment to the committee amendments to LB 425. All