

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I rise in opposition to the Maurstad amendment. You know, we battled over this issue on the Micron bills and, unfortunately, we deleted from the Micron bills the...Senator Warner and the Revenue Committee's language dealing with cost benefit analysis and, if you recall, I think there were some very hard feelings about that. We continue to feel that in economic development tax break legislation that we should look to and try to find a way to interject a cost benefit analysis. And Senator Maurstad would say, why single this out, why do we do it with economic development, why not do it with other types of activity? And in fact, that's a little bit of what we're talking about with other types of areas now. There's cost benefit analysis being talked about in the Congress for various programs to analyze whether rules and regulations makes sense, whether other types of things that we're talking about make sense and I think it does have applicability in other areas and we should be talking and thinking about that. But it particularly makes sense on these tax breaks because they are sold to us with the idea that you give us a tax break and we'll turn around and we'll generate more revenue because of the tax break than you will lose in terms of lost revenue. And so we're kind of saying, put up or shut up, because you're making the argument that this is how...this is going to be a positive net gain for the state. Now let's see it and then let's stick to that and then we'll go forward and put our money up and you put your money up and that's what I'm saying that we need to do is simply take people at their word. They've sold us the tax breaks as being a net positive, net gain for us in terms of revenues. We're just saying, will it happen and if it does happen, fine, but if it doesn't happen we don't want a part of this. The other rhetoric we hear all the time is let's run government like a business. Well, the very businesses that are looking at coming into the State of Nebraska are doing a cost benefit analysis. They are analyzing whether their best bet, their best return on their investment is to come to Nebraska or to some other state where they get this sort of tax break or that sort of assistance or whatever and they lay out all the ups and all the downs and then they make their decision. Well, why shouldn't we do the same thing? This is a particular case where it makes absolute sense to put up a mirror up and reflect back to the business sector what they tell us that we ought to be doing more of and that is