

hearing, and now what we do is if you intentionally hire illegal aliens to fulfill 775 obligations to hire individuals, that there is the possibility you could lose all of your benefits. Again, it is an intentional hiring. If you unintentionally hire illegal aliens, you would only lose, under this amendment, proportionately the credits you received for the hiring of those illegal aliens. That's the, in my view, the reasonable approach to the issue. We have had cases, Excel in Schuyler, we've had Monfort in Grand Island, I believe, and we will have other cases in the future, of raids by INS that have found a significant number of workers, in particularly our packing plants, who are illegal aliens brought into the state and I think it many taken, cases taken advantage of by companies brought...and here they are part of 775 and the investments and jobs that are to be created under 775 and the tax credits given, I think all along were intended to provide jobs for Nebraskans. If you remember the coalition that was formed to pass LB 775 dealt with the concept of jobs for Nebraskans. That was the group that worked on it. I thought we were creating jobs for Nebraskans. I thought we were creating maybe jobs for Americans, but what we are doing with at least some of these are creating jobs for illegal aliens, and then providing tax credits to help that happen. I think that's wrong. I think that the taxpayers of the state, the citizens of this state did not intend that the tax incentives that we have in place were going to achieve that result. I think what they wanted, when we passed that legislation, is we wanted people in Nebraska to have better jobs. The end result of that has been, in some cases, achieved; in others, however, not. My point is that whether it be the plants that have been in the past or the plants in the future, we should not provide an incentive and keep that incentive in place once we've identified that illegal aliens have been hired. So this attempt is to say that we've had experience, we've seen it happen. Let's take the step to address it by retroactively returning the tax credits given when the credits are provided to companies who have ended up hiring illegal aliens. Now, I also want to note for you in the handout that I've given to you that there is a memo that was sent to me by a sociologist at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Lourdes Gouveia, I believe, who sent an analysis of the whole issue, which she has...which they have spent some time looking at. What it appears to me, if you have a chance to look at that memo, you will see that it's really an exploitation of these individuals that are brought into this state. Some will see this amendment, perhaps, as being harsh toward illegal aliens, and trying to punish them.