

work this one out. We will give this break to our companies and, you know, we will give this up, and then the next state next to them says, well, jeez, if they do that, I've got to do that. Before you know it, you've got something like is happening right here, that we are now being asked to throwback the throwback rule and throw it out, not because I think it is good policy in general, because I think that good policy in general was what was in place when everybody did this. But because, as the argument goes, that our neighbors aren't doing it, and so we might lose our companies to our neighbors because of this policy. We've got to back up off of this. You know, it is back to exactly where the Congress has been talking about tax policy over the years, and other states have as well. You start with a fairly broad tax base, whether you are talking sales, or income, corporate income, whatever, but you usually start with a fairly broad base, and then you get...take it apart, a little piece at a time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: You have this interest group, or that company, or this situation, and, you know, on the face of it, well, that makes sense. We will throw that out. We will throw this out, and we will throw...you know, and then the equity issue comes in, so somebody else gets thrown out. Before you get anywhere forward, you find that you are moving backwards. You are ending up with a base that was out here moving closer and closer together and the people that are left having to pick up more and more of the taxes. That is why you have the tax revolt out there. You've got so many tax breaks coming in this form or that form, whether it be this or something else, that everybody else who has got to make up the difference ends up being outraged. And those folks who get the breaks are, of course, very pleased with it, but the broader populace out there trying to make up the difference is outraged, and they end up having to pick up the price. So Congress is talking about a flat tax now, you know that. They are talking about reorienting the federal income tax. They should. They've had so many erosion through tax breaks of that base that they've got to (interruption)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: ...themselves, and I think that's where we are at with this issue, and I don't want to erode it any further. I support the Beutler amendment.