

SPEAKER WITHEM: Would like to recognize in the balcony 55 fourth graders from West Point Elementary School, West Point, Nebraska, with their teacher, and they are guests of Senator Robinson. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, members, I rise in support of Senator Beutler's amendment, and I also rise in support of LB 559. The issue is whether or not, and I guess this ought to be green or brown, Senator Brashear, and I could argue that it could be red for a number of different reasons. One, that it's going to be a loss of revenue. Two, that it's blood money. Three, whatever, however you want to portray it, frankly, the argument that I make is that it...the policy that we make on 559 should not be dependent upon whether or not any of these companies, all of them fine corporate citizens of Nebraska, should leave or not leave the state. I mean they will make those decisions I think regardless of what we do here today. LB 559, and what it embodies in the repeal of the throwback rule is good policy as far as I'm concerned in terms of taxation of corporations in Nebraska. Now others feel differently, and I understand that, but if that is good policy and that's what was advanced out of committee. It was debated extensively on General File, and now here on Select File, I think we ought to continue along those lines. Now if we delay it for a year, as Senator Beutler would have us do, and then come back and use those funds at a later date to, basically, pay for another policy, another good policy, that being public funding of campaigns that we've already got on the books. We just haven't funded. I think that it makes good sense, at this point, to say we can accomplish both those goals. The one goal we've already put in place. We've already adopted it. It is already a part of statute. It just hasn't been funded to any extent. With regards to 559, by adopting Senator Beutler's amendment, you delay the implementation for a year. These companies, as well as a number of other companies that are impacted by this rule, don't believe that this dozen or so companies that are listed on the brown sheet somehow are the sum and substance who will take advantage of this change in tax policy. That's not accurate. They may be the major ones who are impacted by it most, but there are a great number of companies that are affected by the change in tax policy that shows up in 559. The Beutler amendment allows us to make that change and sets it off for a year, but it also allows us to set aside some money making the purpose of that, or the use of that being public campaign