

there, a third, two-thirds less than they are in Nebraska, and as a result they're leaving. If we don't do something to correct that, we've got the same situation that we're talking here. And it goes back again whether you want to describe it that way or not. It goes back to fairness, if they see an opportunity where they're able to make more money by not having to pay so much out in taxes they're going to take advantage of that. I understand that Senator Warner is going to be working on that issue and I certainly applaud him for it because it's one of the issues that's going to be important to agriculture, and as far as that's concerned to all of the people of Nebraska if we in fact lose more of our operators and their taxpaying ability out of the State of Nebraska over the next few years. And I can assure you that that's going to happen because it is happening. So it's a multitude of things that happen. I support this piece of legislation because I again hate to see these kind...these people being put on the spot of making those tough decisions of going where they can get the advantage. I also certainly do not agree with the concept that we ought to have to do that. But I go back to a discussion that we'd had some time earlier that if the other people are doing it, if other states are doing it, it really doesn't leave us that much choice. And whether we like it or not, the issue comes down to if we expect to retain some of these good corporate neighbors that...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...we've been able to get to come to our state, we're going to have to meet some of the competition. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I haven't spoken on this subject before. I rise in opposition to the amendment by Senator Beutler and like to make three points. First, to reinforce what Senator Vrtiska talked about, we have the same kind of noncompetitive situation with our real property tax in this state. Secondly, delaying an implementation date is much like a sunset, and each Legislature that comes along sees that money and its opportunity to be used for some pet project such as funding the Campaign Finance Reform Act and the threat continues. Either it's good policy or not and we should enact it now or we should not. And thirdly, the basic problem with