

taxes and change in government. I...in fact, instead of the World-Herald arguing against what we are talking about, I remember when the Union Pacific talked about how we've got to change government, that we've got to reduce our taxes; we need to grab that tough issue and do something about it. That's exactly what is before us with this resolution and with the package of legislation. We are hearing the call of the business community. We are hearing the call of those signing tax petitions. We are listening and responding...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...and saying the best approach is not simply to tax shift and throw more money at it, that's not what we are talking about. But it is to look at government critically and say, what are the functions we need to provide, what are the services we need to provide, how can we do it better, how can we do it at a lower cost, and that's what this resolution is calling for. So I'd hope that those that have not looked at this as critically and as deeply as they should will reexamine the issue and understand that this is an approach "that's" time has come and it's very critical to improving government across the state of Nebraska with issues that have been before us and been unable to be advanced because of the hard resistance to change of the status quo. It is always hard to change, but now is a chance, and I hope that those who have been resistant to it will look at it anew and with fresh ideas that are being proposed, support this effort by this resolution. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Crosby, do you wish to speak to the Beutler amendment?

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President. Yes, I will speak to the Beutler amendment because I think...I am pleased that Chris had brought this to us because I think that one of the things we need to talk about here today is what we actually might do to reduce property taxes. Over the weekend, the long weekend, I went to five or six different events in my district, and almost everyone that I speak with brings up property tax. I talked to 25 or 30 people on the phone, and we went over the things that the Chairs brought to us last week. And, actually in those...those are wonderful reports, and I know everybody has worked very hard on that. I don't see anything in them that says this is going to reduce your property tax. I have one