

offering the amendment. The amendment, admittedly, in my opinion, cures a number of deficiencies in the 829 program and, in fact, cures what I would point out to you now are simply very glaring and egregious public policy matters. But 1368 is here. It is the opportunity. It has shown us the way that we can legitimately have the program and I think, quite frankly, we should do that, but we should not do that before we take out what is inappropriate for other companies who might want to use the program. I think we have no business maintaining two different systems. We have no business allowing companies to hold state dollars in their coffers until they see fit to use them. We have no business having companies go to employees and say, as a condition of employment, sign this agreement so that we can use withholding from your paycheck to pay for job training and other programs in this company and, oh, by the way, if it isn't used quite right and if you're ever entitled to a refund we hope somebody tells you and, oh, by the way, if you don't owe as much income tax as we have withheld from your check and we're going to use for these company purposes you won't get a refund. I don't think that we want to allow that kind of a situation to be maintained. I hope that the discussion this evening has made clear to you what the potentials are under the existing law and that we will simply remove them. If it is any comfort to Senator Robinson, this amendment is designed to be prospective. We should not change the rules of the game for any company that has already qualified or signed an agreement for the...with the state of Nebraska for the 829 credits. I don't think we could do that. I'm not suggesting we do that. This amendment is supposed to be prospective. It is to apply to agreements after the effective date of passage of 1368 if the amendment is adopted. I am hopeful, of course, that we will come to a resolution of this issue tonight. Again, I will state that it is not because I have ill...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ..will toward the bill or ill will toward the Union Pacific that I have brought this amendment. I have brought this amendment because I believe that we have been indeed shown what is the appropriate policy avenue and that we should acknowledge in some respects that a mistake was made last year, repeal those mistakes and go on our way.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Lindsay.