

concerned about it. I hope that we will, in time, be able to take action on it. I think the public is very concerned about illegal immigration. I think they are concerned about exploitation. I think they are concerned about tax incentives being used, not to hire Nebraskans, but to hire illegal aliens, and I think all those concerns need to be addressed. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on your perspective, I have discussed this matter with Senator Brashear, and because of the shortness of the session and the time constraints that we have, I am going to withdraw this amendment at this time and pursue another amendment that's pending dealing with wages. But I wanted to call this issue to your attention. I suggest that we deal with it, and I would hope that Senator Brashear and others, who support these tax break bills, will talk to the business community and then the reason we've not passed this legislation is opposition from the Omaha Chamber and the State Chamber, who feel that everything is fine, that if, in fact, these companies who are receiving the tax breaks hire illegal aliens, well, that's... I guess that's fine because they oppose any sort of effort to recapture any of the tax breaks that we now provide to these companies. I think that that's a position that sends the wrong message to people of the state of Nebraska. I think the business communities, themselves, ought to be cleaning up their own act. The Chamber of Commerce ought to be coming in here talking about how they want to hire Nebraskans, they want to hire legal residents of this country, and that they don't tolerate their fellow businesses bringing in these illegal aliens, and I think that we should see some leadership, not to oppose legislation like this, but, in fact, to support it. So I do hope that those of you supporting the bill, those of you who support 775, will keep in mind the concerns that I am expressing, and it will only be a matter of time before the next raid in the next packing plant occurs; the next several hundred workers are sent back to Mexico, and we, again, hear the concern about the fact that that plant received tax breaks for having hired individuals, and the question will come up again, and what will the answer be? The answer will be, well, the Legislature has failed to act. They are still looking at the issue. I hope at some point we will act, and we will shut down this abuse, in my view, of the tax incentive legislation that we've previously passed. With that, I'd ask for withdrawal of that amendment, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR COORDSEN: The amendment is withdrawn. Next item,