

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 28, 1999 LB 882

votes and I'll take it very constructively, but I would like...I'm asking the body to vote to support the committee amendments and to support this claim. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President, members, this is taking a great deal of time, but my concern is that we have a lot of people maybe who aren't listening to what the difference is between the two. I think, as Senator Wickersham even pointed out, that perhaps there may be more sympathy on something that's here with the forms, although he said that people should know what we've done. Well, that may be, but certainly when you look...when you fill out your claims, I think generally taxpayers in Nebraska think that the state government should know what we've done and it should be indicated on the forms. The problem is, they don't change the forms very often. And so the form did not request or did not give the option in the years that I mentioned until '98 to check off that it was for...strictly for the agricultural purposes. I think it's a very valid issue. I think it is not totally the responsible...responsibility of individual taxpayers to know if you don't belong to an association to inform you, if you don't have a lobbying group down here to inform you, if you're just the average person out there filling out the forms to pay your taxes, you should be able to rely on the forms that the state of Nebraska provide you. If the state of Nebraska does not provide you the forms that allow you to claim the tax exemption, then I think we have an obligation to recognize this claim that the Business and Labor Committee is bringing forward. I do think this is entirely different. I hope that you may see it. It's a small...it's certainly much smaller. Thank you, Mr. President. It's certainly a much smaller amount and I think deserves your attention. These issues always do take a great deal of time because people are asking for an exception. They take a great deal of time if it's \$25,000 or if it's \$5,000 and, quite frankly, they should equally be considered. This is not the same large amount of money, but I think this is even a more valid issue that has been brought forward by the committee and I would hope that you would support the committee on this claim. Thank you.