

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

February 20, 2003 LB 282

many dollars involved, theory goes out the window. And so you have to try to maximize your effect on the system at the front end, through your representatives that are voting on that governing board, that can put in place tax policy. If you don't do that you are in, not in a pure legal sense, but very much in a real sense giving up your authority to effectuate tax policy in the way that we have done it in the past, with free will, with everybody being free to consult with their constituents and, in representing your constituents, say, yes, we believe this to be the right way of doing something. You're not going to be able to do that anymore.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: You're going to have to explain to your constituents that you didn't have anything to do with it in the sense that the change was made, and if it required a change in state law your answer to your constituent will be, well, we had to do this because we would have lost \$150 million in sales tax revenue and that would have broke the state and we would have had to up your property taxes and up your sales taxes and try to get along on our own with no system for collecting those taxes--obviously not a practical answer. And so I would encourage you again to consider these amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. I think we're back on the basis now that we're talking about what would the impact be of being at odds with streamlined, and I would acknowledge that it would be a significant deterrent to be at the risk of losing a rather good deal of your voluntarily complied with tax base. Now, let's get to the issue of whether or not Nebraska gets to choose what they tax or they don't tax, and its relationship to streamlined, and the answer is we get to choose what we tax or don't tax completely without running afoul of streamlined. Streamlined doesn't tell us, here's your tax base. It doesn't say, if you tax food you're out; if you tax services you're in. Wrong. What streamlined does is to say, look, when we use this phrase,