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FLOOR DEBATE

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getting a lot of tax credits, and the rest of us bearing these heavy burdens? Now the answer comes back, you know what, we've gotten significant growth in this state because of LB 775. We've opened plants. We've kept businesses here. We've swum in the very competitive marketplace of economic development because of LB 775. I voted for LB 775. And it continues to be a relevant, appropriate tool to use. In my sense, however, it should be narrower and deeper. It should go to fewer projects and with a greater eye towards only the projects that would not otherwise happen but for the existence of the tax incentive, and then it could be even deeper than what it is. If we could tie it to the new growth, it would be worth every penny we spend. But it's tied to two kinds of growth; growth that would have happened otherwise and new growth. And the sum total of that means that we are spending \$1 billion in tax forgiveness and getting \$300 million of new taxes for it. We're getting more economic growth but less taxes than we otherwise would, and it's why there's this rub. So we had extensive hearings and extensive ideas. We produced a package of ideas in LB 608. Let me go through them because they are in the committee amendment. First, we said there are some kinds of businesses that shouldn't get tax credits: one, casinos; two, the kill-floor meatpacking, slaughterhouse operations and meatpacking; and, three, in the ethanol circumstance, you could have ethanol not only getting LB 755 but also LB 620, and understand this is a business that already gets an 18 cent a gallon special exemption in our fuel taxes. So we thought between the federal government tax incentives, the state 18 cent one, the LB 775, maybe we could cut off the LB 620, so that in fact they didn't quadruple dip, they just triple dip, federal and two state programs, if we could just have that much. So that's one thing that we do. Second thing we do is we build in a living wage. This came from a number of bills, one that appears in the Senator Beutler bill, Senator Hartnett's bill, Senator Connealy's bill, and the Governor's bill. And that wage is \$8.70 per hour, which would mean \$18,000 a year for an employee receiving qualifying health care. And if they don't get health care or health insurance, then the amount is \$9.50. Now that's for all of the employees on the project; not only the employees of the company, just those 30 workers or those 100 workers that meet the qualifying project, and they need to stay there over time. This is their