

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

March 19, 2003      LB 608

that process. And so, instead of recognizing that this whole thing brought us nowhere other than to give tax advantages to business, that it did nothing in a competitive sense once everybody had done it, instead of backing off, somebody created another tax incentive program. So that spreads across the country. And then another, and then another, and then another to where we're to the point that it is an incredibly...an incredible entanglement between business and government that classic, conservative, economic thinking would tell you shouldn't be there at all. I have to go back and tell you how confused I was when I first came into this Legislature because I was the most conservative in terms of my economic viewpoint. Government should stay out of business in terms of tax incentives. Adam Smith, the Wealth of Nations, would tell you that economic decisions ought to be left to the economic factors. That's the way we are the most productive. That's the way our business is most efficient. And when government starts competing with incentives, that doesn't have anything to do with the productivity of the business community. All that has to do with is figuring out a way for taxpayers to partially fund investments. So really where I think we should go is back to the classic economic theory of less involvement of government in this particular area. Let businesses locate where businesses decide that for economic factors that's where they best locate. Ultimately, that's what works out best for the nation and for the people in the nation. But, no, we say we want to add something to attract them here. Well, we can do that for a year or two, but then somebody else will pass something to attract them there, and we are on an endless treadmill that goes noplacement, and we just keep having to move faster to stay on the treadmill. So what this amendment says is that the Clerk of the Legislature shall deliver to each member of the Nebraska congressional delegation the following request from the Nebraska Legislature: The Nebraska Legislature believes that state economic development incentives create economic distortions in the national economic system and cause the states to compete against one another to retain businesses at great expense to the taxpayers of the states. The Nebraska Legislature requests its congressional delegation to introduce and to enact federal legislation that would effectively curtail the use of economic incentives by the states while ensuring a fair playing field