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FLOOR DEBATE

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permanent the rates that we previously made temporary. Fourth, there is a sales tax restructuring proposal that would broaden the sales tax base, lower the rate from the 5.5 percent temporary rate we're at now to a 5 percent rate, which would again move us down so that we are not the highest in what I call the marketplace, the seven contiguous states, including ourselves. And it would make our sales tax structure look more like that of the other states. And then fifth, when we get to the committee amendment and then my amendment to that, we'll have an opportunity with the division to deal with a property tax restructuring proposal that would increase the levy limit for school systems; adopt two less-expensive targeted property tax relief concepts, one a homestead exemption which would be of greater benefit than our present system to 75 percent of the homeowners in the state of Nebraska, and secondly...you have to appeal in a polyglot body like this to everyone you can appeal to in the making of public policy...secondly, an ag land income tax credit which would allow our ag land holders to minimize the impact of the increase to the \$1.10 levy. These five components and your ideas will be a part of the debate and the discussion. By asking for a division, when I get to my amendment, I'm simply trying to promote giving us the time and the focus to be able to thoughtfully discuss these things. I hope my tone conveys I'm trying to promote a discussion. None of this is about me. Yes, I've been offering this plan for a long time, but it's all something I learned from somebody else. It's all something I learned over time. I have his permission to say, even though he will rise in opposition to some or other aspects of it, you know, every time I've offered this plan and tried to promote this discussion because I thought it was good for the people, David Landis, Senator David Landis, has always encouraged me to keep going, keep trying, come back, do it again, and I think there is a lesson here. I hope that I...and others have encouraged me also. I won't incriminate anyone on the record. I had permission to say that with regard to Senator Landis, because he's been very encouraging. It takes a long time sometimes to suggest ideas, to foster a debate. And I, frankly, think we're at a point in the session where, when the Speaker told me that this would be the morning and this would be the bill and I better be ready, I think it's time that we start discussing these things. I think it's time we start shaping