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LB 379

already been stated this morning. But I rise in opposition to LB 379. To further expand the income tax I believe would bring about a consequence that could very well damage the very base that we currently have. And if we're looking to expand our base, this is the wrong way to go about it. I was told at one point that a wage earner in Nebraska moving to Wyoming, all things considered the same, even the salary, could basically experience a 30 percent net benefit by moving to Wyoming because the property taxes were lower and there was no state income tax. And I don't need to belabor the point of South Dakota and other states and more optimal taxing scenarios than we are. But the fact is to pass LB 379 I believe would be chasing people out of our state. And as I wrote a check on April 15 at about 10:00 p.m., or as late as possible, it certainly drove the point home. And I don't even make a lot of money to fit into that bracket that was the focus of one of these handouts. But the fact is we want to draw people to Nebraska and not chase them away, because when we chase them away, they take away what they were paying, not just what they would pay under an increase. But they are going to take away the very base that we had before. And it is our policy here in the Legislature that our tax policy does have outcomes. It does, in fact, "incent" outcomes. And I can't understand why we would want to further expand the income tax when I believe there is some consensus in the body to extend LB 1085 from last year. I voted green on that a bit reluctantly, but I realize this isn't a perfect world, and I think that LB 379 complicates this condition that we have right now. And certainly I cannot support it, and I hope you will join me in voting red on LB 379. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK PRESIDING

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Vrtiska, you're the next speaker.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President. Well, we certainly have a dilemma. At least I have a dilemma. We can pay more income tax, we can pay more property tax, or we can cut everybody's tax, or we can cut everybody's program. We got a lot of choice. We got a lot of flexibility, but some of them are not very good choices. And it's kind of interesting because