

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

May 8, 2003

LB 759

Been a request for a call of the house. All in favor of the house going under call vote aye, opposed nay. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 15 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The house is under call. All unexcused senators please report to the Chamber. Unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. Senator Redfield, you may start your close. As you know, your clock is rolling.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I have asked for a call of the house because I am looking for direction. I supported, along with the Revenue Committee, a broadening of the sales tax last year. I have stood firm when they have come in with their two alike items and said, give me an exemption, and I've said, no, we can't contract the base anymore; we're going the wrong direction. So I'm looking for a vote that tells me, as a Revenue Committee member, and the rest of the Revenue, what direction you want us to go. Because if we're going to start contracting our base more and more and more, then I'm going to vote that way. And I could to that comfortably. I don't think it's right and I don't think it's fair, but I'm going to make it as fair for the people out there as I can, and right now it's not. So I'm looking for direction here as to whether you think that we need to broaden the sales tax broadly, or if we're just going to pick on a victim a year, because I don't want to play that game. Herman Cain wrote an editorial in the Omaha World-Herald and he said reform isn't enough, the U.S. needs a fair tax. There has been a unanimous, unanimous resolution by the U.S. House to look at restructuring the tax code, and this is the kind of tax they're looking at. And, yes, they are looking at replacing income taxes and I could support that. And the principle that they were looking for that every economist agrees with, every business agrees with, says we're looking for something that promotes economic growth, fairness, simplicity, neutrality, visibility, stability. Senator Brashear year after year has come in and said let's put Nebraska on the map let's be leaders, and it's interesting he's been arguing that for days until now. It's bold, it's brash, I don't expect to see 25