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LB 283, 759

prevailing side of the tax increase. For some of us, that vote was very difficult. But we did what we thought was the right thing for the state of Nebraska. I believe that the most significant part of the bill, even though I had issues with certain specifics, was the broadening of the sales tax base. I think that as our economy changes and goes in a different direction, we must be having our tax policy follow that economy. But I also think that as we do that, we also look at the rates. And the rate piece, to me, is something that we need to continuously reexamine. We have said that by adopting, with a fairly sizeable number of votes, LB 759, that we're going to continue to expand the base. But we didn't do what was originally in LB 759, which was to reduce the rate. I believe that that is justified to address our current situation. But I also am one of the individuals that is term limited, that we will not be here in four years. This amendment would sunset the rate portions of LB 759, take them back to the pre-1085 levels, and allow those individuals that are elected at the time that term limits kicks in to make a determination: have we gotten past the worst of the economic downturn? Have we broadened the base to the extent that we are able to look at a reduction in rates? I understand that there are going to be individuals who are going to oppose this amendment on the basis of tax policy. And this is not in any way a guarantee to anyone that these rates are going to be temporary. It's just a method. In the same way that every time we have reduced taxes since I've been in the Legislature, we've done it temporarily, at least initially, to see what the impact is; I think that we need to be as careful, especially in light of the move that we're making in expanding the base, with the rates. And I think it also gives us something to say to the...those individuals who are very disappointed in our decision, that we are not making that decision permanent. We are going to allow a new group of people to examine it, in light of what may very well be very changed circumstances. Temporary tax cuts, temporary tax increases, are always...I mean, anything that we do can be reconsidered. But I think that we need to make sure that the new group reconsiders this, in light of changes in the economy, and especially in light of what I am committed to, which is, if we're going to continue to broaden the base, then we better continue to look at reducing the rates. So I would ask you to support this