

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 283

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may. Mr. Clerk, read the amendment, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis would move to amend Senator Brown's AM1975 by adding a new section which would read: Tax rates as reflected in this amendment shall not be modified or changed prior to January 1 of 2007.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

SENATOR LANDIS: Goose v. Gander, Goose v. Gander. Legislature next year can't change the tax rates. Legislature that can't change the tax rates because we've got a plan, and the plan is to lower the rates in 2007, and no Legislature between now and then should be able to lower the tax rates because this Legislature decided. Senator Baker said, you know what, we're going to have a Legislature in 2007 that's going to be under term limits. By the way, this one is under term limits, but that one is going to be under term limits and we're not going to have the advantage (laugh) of people with long-term experience, which is by...I think what the state of Nebraska is waiting for, aren't they? It's why it passed. But I think if I get Senator Baker's argument, he said, I want to hold them accountable because that's a Legislature with term limits. I don't know what they're going to be like. Oh, my God, they're probably going to be infirm because they're not going to have this longstanding body of institutional knowledge and we probably can't trust them and I want to hold them accountable. You know who holds them accountable? The public, the voters, the people who put them in office, not us. That's our job. That's the voters' job. What we don't do is we don't say, you know, the Legislature in 2007 is just going to be a little more inferior than us because of term limits and they're just not going to be able to do their job, and I want to reach out now and hold them accountable. I did say that this Legislature was tough and it didn't have to be, it's true, and I think Senator Brown was right to take me to task for that, but I'll tell you what I meant by it and that is I think our job was made much more difficult by having attached the word "temporary" to the tax increases we did. I think we shot ourselves in the foot and we