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

March 2, 2005 LB 44

deduction in Nebraska and some don't. So we can't really say it picks on a particular income group. What I do think that, in honesty, we would have to say is that for anyone who moved into Nebraska and stayed a short time, they would be negatively impacted, because they would not have the opportunity of living in a home for 50 years, as many of our citizens do, and seeing those years when they could get the value of the homestead exemption. So I would say as a group that would be the only group I could universally say would be impacted negatively, would be short-term Nebraskans. I would say that those that would be helped the most could likely be, in fact, people at the lower income levels, because, in fact, the income tax deduction is not a refundable credit, which means, if you don't owe the tax, there's no offset; you just lose the value of that deduction. So I would say, anyone who has enough deductions or a low enough income that they couldn't offset that tax...have enough tax burden to offset the deduction, would probably be the ones who would benefit the most.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. I admire Senator Redfield for bringing a proposal such as this forward. There's...always we need ideas on how we can reduce taxes for various people, especially the elderly that are homeowners that...on fixed incomes. We've found in a lot of places that their taxes is going up every year, and it's getting to where they can't afford to live in their homes. Some of these people have retired, had nice homes when they retired, and as time went on, why, the valuations have more than doubled in some areas, so that consequently they are in a terrible bind for paying their taxes and the upkeep on their homes. And I suppose this would probably help them. Some of it, on the new homeowners, I'm kind of concerned. If some of these younger folks go out here and buy some high-dollar homes--which about, nowadays, if you buy any home, it seems like to me it's a high-dollar home--they don't have that mortgage deduction. I'm wondering, if they take the \$5,500 exemption off of there, if also the property tax deduction is affected that they take off of any of their homes, too. One other problem I have is, is these farm and ranch sites, nowadays, are valued separately from