

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

May 10, 2005

LB 500

more sense to wait and get some additional money so we can do it then. I think it's a very dangerous thing. We have a tax base that we have, I think, carefully developed over the years, which...you know, there's those, certainly, who argue there are flaws in it, that we should do some things differently. I think they make that point probably pretty well. But nonetheless, it is a tax base. As you do sort...these sorts of things, one thing that you are...you may or may not be effective in attracting another business venture to the state. One thing you certainly are going to do is corrupt the tax base. You're going to be giving away revenues that you need to...and particularly when...you know, and keep in mind the economic cycle that we're doing this in. When everything is going up, well, most people believe that everything will go up forever. Well, most of you that have been here just a few years know that that doesn't happen, that they go down. Once they begin to go down, you begin to scramble for money and you have automatically taken all this business tax incentive money off the table. You've got to go cut some other places. You...in addition to that, you've created all the inequities. You've got existing businesses that made the mistake, I guess you could say, of operating in the state without any incentive. They simply participated in the business climate, are out there investing, hiring, buying and selling, trying to make a business work. We're more or less saying, with this kind of stuff, you're a fool for having done that. What you ought to do is hold out for money, for incentive from the state government. Other states...you're right, other states are doing this. But that doesn't mean that we have to pile on. That doesn't mean that if another state makes a dumb decision, we have to make a dumber one. And unfortunately, that's what you're left with here. Just a dumb decision won't work; it's got to be dumber than the other state in order for it to be effective. Again, I hope you'll seriously consider those points, in addition to the one that, make those decisions that are important for the state of Nebraska, that preserve the base, the tax base that we have, so that we can do things, do the things that the state has to do in order to satisfy not only its constitutional requirements, but the citizens of the state. Again, I support this motion to recommit. And I hope you'll join me in that, and also in opposing the bill.