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FLOOR DEBATE

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of Nebraska to the Legislative Chamber to deliver his State of the State Address.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. I would request...the motion before the body is, shall an Escort Committee be formed to escort the Governor to the Chambers? All in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. Motion carries. I would ask that an Escort Committee be made up of Senators Cornett, Senator Fischer, Senator Baker, Senator Engel, and Senator Landis. Please go and escort the Governor to the Chambers. Mr. Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Dave Heineman and his wife, Sally.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: I would request the committee escort the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Governor Dave Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem, into the Legislature. (Gavel) Ladies and gentlemen, legislators, your Governor of the state of Nebraska, Governor Dave Heineman. (Applause)

GOVERNOR HEINEMAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, tribal chairmen, distinguished guests, friends and fellow Nebraskans, I am pleased today to join this Ninety-Ninth Legislature at the beginning of a unique session. This may be the last time any Governor will look upon this body and see a group of people with so much institutional knowledge. I'm enthusiastic and optimistic about another opportunity to work with you in the best interests of Nebraskans because we've accomplished so much together in so short a time. This is a good time to govern in Nebraska. Our economy is growing, our schools continue to educate students who are well-prepared for the work force and beyond. As a state, we are continuing to work on the difficult issues of the day, to find common ground and common-sense solutions, both of which are valued traditions in our state. Because the state is headed in the right direction, we have a golden opportunity to keep faith with Nebraska taxpayers. The focus of this session should be to provide meaningful and sustainable tax relief to individual Nebraskans and their