

perhaps you would take the initial speech and remind us of where we are with your amendment and then we'll proceed with other speakers and a vote. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'll tell you, I think I've convinced Senator Withem to like this amendment. He is even liking it so much he's offering it to resolutions on adoption that he's presenting in different committees. I was really pleased to see what a turnaround a matter of hours can make in a perspective. I was really excited about that. But I have a feeling that maybe the time since has maybe changed his view once again back to being less than enthusiastic. But what this amendment does is it attempts to again set a base on which to get the credit, to get this additional tax break. You have to have a job that pays at least \$11 either in wages or benefits to qualify for that tax break. We haven't done it with 775. As a result, we got a mixed bag. We got good jobs and we got some not so good jobs. We got jobs that paid well with benefits. We got some jobs that didn't pay very well and had no benefits. And, in the end, it, I think, was one of the areas that was of concern with 775 and one of the areas of concern that I had. So rather than try and repeat that mistake, I'm suggesting that we put it into the bill and try and have a target there to get decent paying jobs. Now let me lay out for you a scenario of what will happen if we don't have the kind of jobs that attract out-of-state employees. And I'm going to build upon the concerns that were expressed by the Omaha Chamber just a few months ago. If you take the premise, as there was last fall, that there are not enough employees in the State of Nebraska, that employers are unable to meet their employment needs with the current population in the State of Nebraska and as a result they are finding people not applying for jobs that are open, they are finding that they need to take expansion projects outside of the state to go to places where there are employees, that they are having to bring in. In one case, a company told me they were bringing Cubans in from Miami because they couldn't find anybody to apply for jobs at their plant from Lincoln. So here we are faced with a situation where there are not enough employees, so along comes Micron and we're talking about 3,500 jobs and we're talking about 6,500 additional jobs that will be there for ancillary type companies, so we're talking 10,000 jobs. Now this is in a situation where we're already without an adequate supply of employees, so for Micron to attract employees in that sort of situation, they're going to have to pay better wages and better benefits in order