

the Revenue Committee has, and we want them to be actively involved in the process. That's what we're saying.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows, do you wish to speak, and then Senator Haberman.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. President and members of the body, I'd like to speak in full support of this bill, LB 17. We have coming before us in the Revenue Committee most of the bills are tax erosion bills, and I think it's an indicator that the general knowledge of the Legislature is not adequate as to what we're doing to the tax system each time we erode it. Take more off the base of sales tax, it's got to go somewhere else. If we erode the property tax like we have in the state when we took off household goods, intangibles...LB 518, each of these was a step of erosion of the tax base, and a very primary part of this, of the problem of the property tax system, is that that we've eroded it down to a small base, those it left in no way can afford to pay the taxes, and we've restricted to a smaller and smaller group the payers. We have in excess of fifty million...fifty million dollars bills to reduce the base in collections on the sales tax before us in the Revenue Committee. Now, some problems that are created... when 518 was passed, those classes of property, as potential revenue sources for the state, are lost as far as keeping an inventory, or even an intelligently estimated inventory before us. The areas that are not presently sales taxed, those areas are potential revenue sources that would broaden the base, and we don't know, or don't have projections onto the potential take from these sources. We don't have the potential exacting breakdown on income sources for the future. And I think the Committee amendments...we voted it out eight-zero from the Revenue Committee, that the Committee amendments put a low-cost program of a gathering service of overall analysis information of the tax system of what exemptions we have for us to intelligently pass future tax legislation in the state of Nebraska. I really think it's needed, because I have been digging on exemption figures for 518 and we have put together a fairly good set of figures, I think, based on going back... having to go back to '77 figures on some of it, what the revenue losses were to the state, and those shifts that went to the real estate. Now, this is not aimed at 518 alone. It's aimed at 518 all the exemptions...sales, property, to give us simply an intelligent basis to analyze our tax system and come up with new solutions to the tax system. I wholeheartedly support this bill as a measure that will provide and put together in a usable form, much of this is available, scattered,