

as a revenue issue, you do lose some tax revenue as a result of the credit and the Revenue Department is looking for every dollar they can get so they have proposed eliminating the tax credit. If you look at it from a different perspective, however, that of energy policy in this state, yes, you do lose some revenue, but it is more than made up for by encouraging the development of solar energy in Nebraska and that's why the Banking Committee endorsed and advanced LB 297 to enact an extension rather than a retraction of that solar tax credit. One of the problems the Revenue Department has brought up with the solar tax credit is its enforcement and implementation. Of course they are in charge, given responsibility for enforcing that law and if they have difficulty with that, we are willing to help them and so the other provision in this amendment is to give them broader authority to carry out the provisions of the tax credit to make sure that its only utilized where appropriate and that we don't have anybody ripping off the state through the use of this tax credit. So that's the second part of the amendment. So essentially it is two parts, number one, instead of taking away the tax credit, we extend it. Instead of talking about the problems of enforcement we give them the tools to enforce it and Senator DeCamp and I would ask your support for the amendment.

SENATOR LAMB PRESIDING

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson to address the amendment.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is a bad amendment. It's a real bad amendment. This amendment was given to the Legislature in the form of a bill, LB 273. This amendment, if adopted, would continue the solar energy tax credit until the year 1992, 1992. The current law, incidentally, ends the solar energy tax credit next year. This amendment, if adopted, would cost all us taxpayers in the State of Nebraska \$1.6 million a year. This is a tax expenditure amendment of \$1.6 million a year, lots of money, Senator Wesely, more money, Senator Wesely, on this tax credit than in your ADC increase bill. Now you've got to stop and think about what \$1.6 million a year means to help this fledgling solar energy industry. It means that we then don't have \$1.6 million in this state to do the kind of work we need to do for the alcohol programs, Senator Nelson; to do the kind