

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Wesely, to present your amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, this amendment deals again with the solar tax credit issue. We proposed what was in LB 297 to show you the problem when you try and deal with a substantive policy issue such as solar energy tax credits in a bill that is really a revenue bill. The issue is one of energy policy and it's one that is very important and I think that it ought to be removed from the bill. This amendment would take out the sections referring to the solar tax credit just completely out of the bill. The solar tax credit as proposed and passed back several years ago will end a natural death at the end of next year anyway. It has a sunset clause on it. There is no real reason to come forward with this legislation. All it does is move forward by a year or two the ending date of that tax credit so there is no big rush and I don't think the problem is there that Senator Johnson and the Revenue Department see with that tax credit. It's really hard at four twenty-two when everybody is thinking about other things to talk about energy policy, but the energy crisis isn't over. I think that we've seen gasoline prices go down. I think we've seen some stability in energy prices overall and so everybody forgets that we're still importing as much or more oil from foreign countries as we used to. We still import as much or more energy outside of the state as we used to. Nothing has really changed. Our vulnerability is as bad as it ever was. The only thing that has changed is the prices have stabilized. We've gotten used to dollar plus gas prices and we've gotten used to high natural gas prices and high electricity prices and all the different prices that have stabilized. They are still much higher than they used to be, but we're used to them and so we think it's an energy crisis that has come and gone, but it is not. The energy crisis is still there. We're still vulnerable and will come back to haunt us and some day you'll all wonder why we didn't do something in anticipation of it. But we are doing something about it. We dealt with it several years ago and I hope we continue to do that by enacting the tax credit legislation. We, when we enacted it, felt that a five year period would be a good review time to look at the issue. I'm asking you to allow the tax credits to go to the full five years and look at the issue again next year and if you feel that you can't live with the credit extension, then they'll end anyway at the end of next year. Now I'm going to argue that tax credits ought to be extended and I think