

me that well if we simply extended that credit, then sure enough legislation could be offered next year to extend it even further along. Now again in your packet you have a fine letter from our Tax Commissioner and the Tax Commissioner has indicated how difficult the administration of the solar energy tax credit has been. It's not been an easy tax credit for us to administer. Furthermore, the federal government provides a substantial solar energy tax credit. It seems to me that the time has come for us to make certain that we have a fair and comprehensive tax law and not simply whittle away the tax base and that is what 273 does, that's what 715 does. It stops the whittling and plugs some gaps and sometimes you've got to make hard decisions and one of those hard decisions is to terminate a tax credit that is benefitting a few people who decide they are going to use solar equipment. That is a hard to administer tax credit, that's broader than the federal tax credit and in some respects is duplicative of the tax credit. Now it is not right for us to continue the tax credit for an additional two years. It also costs us \$1.6 million annually. I guess I personally am prepared to continue the tax credit through the balance of this calendar year out of fairness to those folk who have bought the equipment prior to the passage of 273. I suppose I could do that outside of fairness to the people who bought the equipment, but doggone it, I don't want to extend it beyond that time. I'll be fair, but I'm not going to continue to watch the state treasury bleed to a handful of folk who decided to take advantage of a tax credit and with that I would oppose Senator Wesely's \$1.6 million annual drain on the treasury.

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

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. I rise to support this amendment. If you'll recall I did oppose Senator Wesely's former amendment which would extend it to 1992, but I believe that this amendment is a more proper one. And Senator Wesely spoke about Nebraska being energy poor, we import nearly all of our energy and the only fuel that we have in abundance is our beautiful blazing sun. But remember, because prices have gone down or we are hoping that they will go down, maybe next winter, there is some promise, that does not solve our problem of using quantity and causing the volume of more energy being imported. And