

remember, too, we had a nice winter this winter, but usually Nebraska winters are endless, relentless and bitter cold. Remember also, we are continuing our severance tax which is dedicated to school weatherization because we remember how important it is to combat that energy crunch. And I must admit I have taken advantage of energy tax credits and maybe many of you have and how can you cut off those who plan to use it at this point? We have made a promise to our small businesses that do this service, also promised our taxpayers who many times have invested heavily as individuals and helping us cut our volume of finite energy sources. This is fair. It is not anything...any extension of time, it is just following through on our promise when we passed that energy tax credit five years ago, no, three years ago. I support the amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler on the Wesely amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to speak against the amendment. You know this is something that we really need to do I think and it's hard to talk in terms of absolutes and it is hard to get a handle on what an energy credit is worth to society, but we've had to make some tough decisions this year. And once again I remind you of the fact that we don't have much money. There are a lot of tough decisions that have to be made and we've asked for those tough decisions from our rural people and we've asked them from our urban people. And I would remind you that with regard to the rural people for example on the gasohol, we have cut back on the gasohol credit. That was pretty important to a lot of people, but we have done away with that and I think in all fairness that it is very difficult to argue that the energy credit is more important than the gasohol credit. So I just wanted to make that comparison for you and ask you if you do not agree that if we've gotten rid of the gasohol credit, we should get rid of the energy credit too. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely to close on his amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I'll be brief. I can see the handwriting on the wall. I do appreciate Senator Pirsch's support and those of the rest of you who are concerned about energy policy, but clearly in