

where technical amendments need to be looked at. That's only prudent when we're dealing with this kind of legislation.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I think I'm probably going to support this amendment. There's some...I have some problems with some of the parts of it. I don't like the sales tax on electricity and I don't like the minimum tax on corporations. It doesn't seem fair that you would have the same tax on a billion dollar company like ConAgra or a small business corporation that's going to do maybe 50,000. But I guess for one year we can probably live with it. I wouldn't want it to be part of the final solution. Senator Hall, can I ask you a question? Agriculture is exempt from the sales tax increase of electricity, right?

SENATOR HALL: That's correct, any utilities tax they're exempted out.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Okay, that's...now also the \$100,000 maximum, Senator Hall...

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: ...how does that affect Nebraska Public Power and Omaha Public Power?

SENATOR HALL: They would not be affected. The cap would not apply to generators. In other words, the power companies, NPPD, OPPD, LES, the cap doesn't apply there. So those entities make up approximately 8.5 million to that 18 million and the other 10 is spread out over all other business entities that have...and then they are capped at a 100,000, again agricultural entities are exempt.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you. I guess it's my understanding, in talking to some of the power companies, that it will probably raise rates 1 to 2 percent by having to pay the 5 percent sales tax. Agriculture cannot pass it on, as Senator Will said, that most businesses do. Agriculture, they do not do that, they have to absorb it. So I think that maybe 1 to 2 percent a year, we can probably live with that. I don't think that it's something we would want to have in the long term solution but I think it's