

SENATOR HALL: Well, clearly, the portion of the utility tax that is going to be levied on generators will more than likely be passed through. It will be passed through to the ultimate consumer. They will figure it in their cost of business. Many of those ultimate consumers will be homeowners. Many of those ultimate consumers will be businesses as well who are now going to also pay tax on their utilities just like you and I do at home, you at your home, me at my home.

SENATOR ROBAK: Okay, also, do you know, you realize, of course, that some electricity is not generated in Nebraska, it's generated in another state and we do buy electricity from other states and, therefore, we can't tax that, can we?

SENATOR HALL: And some people use wood burning stoves.

SENATOR ROBAK: And so those people aren't taxed as heavily as the ones that are taxed here where we buy our electricity here in Nebraska, where we generate it here in Nebraska.

SENATOR HALL: That's correct.

SENATOR ROBAK: So we're not really taxing them fairly there, are we, with the homeowner, the average homeowner?

SENATOR HALL: And there's also...you know, there's also power that's generated in Nebraska that's sent out as well. We export that. We sell that product outside the state as well to other purchasers. So it works both ways. Some comes in, some goes out. Some gets taxed, some doesn't.

SENATOR ROBAK: Okay, I guess I just thought it was kind of unfair to someone that we're passing on sort of an income tax to some of those people that, you know, which should not get it because they're not the ones that have created it.

SENATOR HALL: Yeah, and I appreciate that. I mean, I think it was Senator Crosby who, in her comments, said that one could argue that ultimately all taxes are passed on by business.

SENATOR ROBAK: Oh, also, Senator Hall, we aren't doing anything about gas companies either. We're just hitting the power companies, are we not? I mean, does not the gas companies force the power companies to raise their rates sort of in this kind of a proposition?