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Platte Institute Releases First Study: “Should I Live in Nebraska?”

(Omaha, Neb.) Roger Lempke, executive director of the Platte Institute for Economic Research, and Dr. Ernie Goss of Creighton University took part today in the public release of “Nebraska’s Tax Competitiveness: Should I Live in Nebraska?” The study, done through Creighton University College of Business, is the first from the Platte Institute and focuses on the tax burden climate in Nebraska compared to that of its neighbors.

“Since 1992, Nebraska has become the least tax-competitive state in the region,” said Goss. “Nebraska will be even less competitive in 2016.”

Lempke, retired Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard, said in his many travels across the state while serving in that capacity, he had the opportunity to hear what’s important to Nebraskans in every corner of the state and two things always came up in conversation.

“I had a chance to travel the state and talk to people throughout the state of Nebraska and hear their concerns,” said Lempke. “Taxes and where the economy is going in Nebraska was always a topic of discussion.

“We decided that looking at overall competitive as compared to other states around us was a good place to start. We’re about ideas, not politics. This is the beginning for us.”

The study concludes with six recommendations for making Nebraska more competitive with its bordering states. First is the idea that Nebraska tax policy debates should focus less on economic equity and tax revenue protection and more on economic growth. Secondly, that the state should

set a goal that by 2016, the tax burden per capita will be less than the national average of just over \$5,000.

It also recommends improving the climate for small businesses and those in the prime workforce age group of 20-44 and that, to the extent possible, taxes should be levied, administered and debated at the lowest level of government. The study also calls for taxes and tax policy to become more transparent.

For more information about the study or on the Platte Institute, visit their web site at www.platteinstitute.org.

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ATTENTION NEWS DIRECTORS AND ASSIGNMENT EDITORS:

Media interested in more information, including interviews with Roger Lempke, are invited to contact the Platte Institute. Please call Berkeley Brown – 402.452.3737 or email: berk.brown@platteinstitute.org