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such as this would probably stifle several projects. So there's no...there's only about \$100,000 in this fund right now, really not adequate to fund much of anything, and I think that Senator Janssen is on the right track with limiting this to a certain amount of money so that more projects rather...can be funded rather than one or two large projects. So, again, I'd rise in opposition to Senator Aguilar's amendment. I think that the bill, as drafted, is the proper approach for this measure. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I too rise in opposition to this amendment. One of the beauties of the throwback funding last year, one of the reasons that some of us were able to actively support that, was that we told our constituents that there was a chance that we could get some of that throwback money back in our communities. If we raise this or continue to have a higher level of acceptance from this fund for the large projects, there won't be in communities across the state. I'd argue that almost every community in my district, and probably most rural districts, have large needs for public facilities. There isn't any money to do it at the local level now or at least not enough to get them started. This is an opportunity for multiple communities to get into this and start projects. I'd rise in opposition to the Aguilar amendment and support the bill as it came out of committee.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I have to respectfully disagree with the conclusion that this is a fair bill. This is a very, very unfair bill. The taxpayers, the income taxpayers and the sales taxpayers, of the city of Lincoln put in a big share of the money that financed the Omaha Convention Center, and that's fair enough, but when you turn around and create a fund back to the communities, back to the people who contributed to the Omaha Convention Center, it ought to be in some rough equivalent to the amount of money put in.