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half cent sales tax. We are in a bad fix financially. Now the reason I oppose the amendment is because it means simply that whichever way we go, whether we go with the Hoagland amendment or whether we go with the DeCamp amendment, the issue has to come back some time for re-review by this body. Now, frankly, local taxing authority can be reviewed by this body any time. You don't need a sunset provision to do it. But I guess one of the reasons that we want to put a sunset provision in here, frankly, is that we want to have an opportunity to look at Omaha again, and maybe to jerk Omaha around again, maybe to link the Omaha sales tax bill with other bills. And I have watched it this session. I watched it two years ago, and I think it is wrong. I think the sales tax needs to be looked at on its merit and if it doesn't have the merit in this body, then it should fail, and the city should just, you know, go down in flames. But it should fail if it doesn't have the merit. If we Omaha Senators and if we Omaha City Councilmen, and if we, the Omaha Mayor, can't convince this body of the merit of the half cent sales tax, then it should be defeated, and it should not be linked to anything. It should rise or fall on its own merit or lack thereof. Now I happen to think it has substantial merit, and I have been genuinely surprised at Omaha Senators that have voted against the half cent sales tax authorization, but they will make their peace later on with their voters and with the city. In fact, I must admit I have a certain anarchistic sense to watch this go down to defeat and to then see precisely what happens in our own community, to see what happens to services we are going to have to start charging user fees for, to see exactly how the people will respond, to see what our Chamber of Commerce really does then, as we begin to talk about an earnings tax and other things. But there is a right and there is a wrong and the right simply is to take the only metropolitan area in this state and give it the authority to impose the tax that the voters themselves have approved of imposing, and to let that authority go so long as the elected officials, the City Council, chooses to exercise it. And it is not to bring this issue back, as Senator Schmit would say, one more trip over the washboard for the noise and the glory, it's not to bring this issue back in 1984 or in 1988 or in July of 1983, but just to have the authority so our City Council can act. You know the reason I have been so hostile to the revenue sharing concept, the reason I have been hostile to the revenue sharing concept is because it doesn't give the local municipalities the authority to tend to their own business. It says every local government has got to come down here year in and year out and reargue the formula and reargue the money that is going to come down.

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