

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the advancement of LB 320. I would also, I guess you are all familiar with these issues and you have already rejected the one amendment which I put up and I will have others on Select File and so this battle is far from over but before we move this bill I want you to think and perhaps hopefully we will not move this bill. But I want you to think a little bit about what this bill is doing. This bill is increasing the capital construction authority of the technical community colleges, the community college system that we had to bail out a couple years ago by passing legislation that extended their capital construction authority to pay off their bonded indebtedness. We are going to give additional capital construction authority to the technical community college system that ignored, no, not ignored, but very ingeniously figured a way to skirt the intent of this Legislature so far as additional capital construction was concerned in Grand Island. This Legislature put some of these restrictions on the system because we recognized that they were building a campus about twenty miles from where they had already had an existing campus and so how did they skirt it? With the use of revenue bonds. They know, they saw what the intent of this Legislature was. They know that we did not desire additional capital construction and new campuses and the expansion of that facility but they did it anyway and now we are going to pass a bill that or hopefully we will not pass this bill. I hope you will reject this bill that allows them to continue along this path and Senator Koch is proposing that we give them additional capital construction authority as well. But in addition to that we are going to say to the people of western Nebraska, we are sorry, it is too bad, but you should pay higher property taxes to support your technical community college than they do anywhere else. The same concept is taking the lid off any political subdivision in the state but we are going to continue down that road because some people in western Nebraska, and I would guess a minority, believe that the technical community colleges should have that kind of treatment. And maybe one of the reasons that the western Nebraska technical community colleges having this problem every year is that they refuse to face reality. They refuse to cut programs that should be cut. They refuse year after year to put their fiscal house in order. They refuse to look at the assets which they have and to justify and build a good program on that basis. Instead they are always coming down here asking for special treatment and I think that is wrong. They should not have higher property tax authority than people in other parts of the state. They are unwilling to compromise and I think we should defeat this bill, but one thing additionally bothers me very much. This bothers me a lot. When I took my amendments out to the representatives of the technical community college system, their lobbyist told me that their amendment was okay. Then later the amendment