

for that. It allows for some source of revenue, other than admissions, to help with improvements in those facilities. Mr. Speaker, because of lack of time, my light is on and I will speak to the issue again.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers is next. But, Senator Chambers, may I introduce some guests of Senator Coordsen, please. In the north balcony, we have ten juniors and seniors from Crete High School and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you for visiting us this morning. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, rather than go into much of the discussion that I feel is necessary to show that this is a bad bill, I just want to say that, since the committee amendment would reduce the amount of the new tax from 4 percent to 2 percent, it probably would improve the bill, if it would pass. But I'm not going to vote for the committee amendment because to do so would put me in the position of voting for a 2 percent tax, where I think there should be no additional tax at all. So I'm going to reserve my discussion of the individual amendments that Senator Hall will offer, and on the kill motion, which I think definitely should prevail. I will reserve my discussion until those motions come up. But I'm not going to vote for the committee amendment for the reason that I said.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. The tax is one that will be used in basically the same manner as the tourism tax currently is used. It is levied by the county, it goes to the county tourism or visitor's promotion board. Those are the same people that currently use the lodging tax to determine where the dollars should be spent in the local entity to promote tourism. These will be the same group of people who will determine where this additional tax will be used with regard to improvement or expansion within that county on these visitor sites. It is set up so that the system that is currently in place can be implemented and be used. All we do is provide for a mechanism so that some monies can be used in the area of capital needs. Some of you remember that about four years ago I brought in a bill similar to this that would have allowed for a portion of the state lodging tax, the 1 percent that currently is levied and used in the area of tourism, to