

expand that definition of use to capital construction. There was much opposition to that and it was based on the fact that capital construction would probably become the predominant issue as opposed to tourism promotion, which in turn many felt brought increased revenue into these locales and into the state. I learned a lesson there. What we did in this case, with LB 262, is provide for a separate fund, provide for a fund that specifically and solely dealt with the aspect of capital improvements to many of these visitor attractions. What we have here is a bill that says we have two funds now. We established a second fund. We funded at the same level with the committee amendments that we currently fund the Promotion and Tourism Fund, and we allow for much needed improvements to many of these visitor attractions that don't have the monies currently to provide for that. We also use the same group of people who are currently making those decisions with regard to tourism, so we don't set up any additional bureaucracy. All we do is provide them with additional monies through the 2 percent tax to make decisions that improve these facilities that bring people into these local areas, that bring dollars, part of that \$1.6 billion tourism industry into the State of Nebraska, that has grown approximately 5 to 7 percent every year since the motel-hotel tax has been implemented. If you look at LB 262, it clearly spells out what types of visitor attractions would be eligible. It is not difficult to understand, so I'm not going to belabor the issue by reading it to you, but it does, on page 5, give you a definition of what you're looking for...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...with regard to the types of uses for the County Visitors Improvement Fund. Another aspect of the fund that you need to recognize is that if there are no need...or there is no need for improvements, if there is no need for capital expenditures, the monies from that capital fund would then dump over into the Tourism Fund, or could be used in that aspect, they could be used for the purposes of tourism and promotion as opposed to capital construction. If you look at the committee record, you will see that a number of those individuals who at one time opposed this measure are now very actively supporting it and feel that not only will it enhance the...

PRESIDENT: Time has expired.