

ought to use as the leverage to make a commitment to not just metropolitan Nebraska, but the entire State of Nebraska and, particularly, rural Nebraska because I don't think there is any belief out there right now that there is any commitment to rural Nebraska. This is probably a poor bill to say it is going to solve the problems of rural Nebraska, and I wish I could say there was some other initiative out there that I thought really would, but we need to start having that serious discussion and I say this bill is more of a policy issue along those lines than whether it is good policy or bad policy to pull it out of the Appropriations Committee. I don't think the world is going to come to an end today if you pull it out of the Appropriations Committee. I don't like going against my committee. I have not pushed strongly to put this bill out of committee out of respect for that committee, but, nevertheless, I think it is time to kind of push those issues and talk about how we are going to address infrastructure, how we are going to address the needs of every community in this state, and are we, in fact, using our resources in the best way to treat people equitably across the state. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, please.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I stand here somewhat in the same quandary that Senator Scofield does. I am a signer on the bill and I support the bill. However, I will not support the motion to bring the bill to the floor for a couple of reasons. One, I agree with Senator Barrett, Speaker Barrett, when we...I know when my tort bill came on the floor and there was a concern about bracketing that bill until a later date, and I stood up and really probably single-handedly killed my own bill by going forward with that bill that day, LB 159. I think the process is important. I intend to support LB 683 when it comes before the Appropriations Committee. Last year Senator Landis had a bonding bill up which I opposed, and I am not certain I made the right decision on that. I think that Senator Landis has come up with some very imaginative, innovative ideas in this area that are really important to be dealt with. I last week read Governor Kean's book about his experiences in New Jersey, and one of the chapters was about the funding of the Meadowlands project where a giant stadium is located right across the river from Manhattan, and one of the mechanisms that was used to create the Meadowlands complex was a rather complex series of financial arrangements including a state bonding provision that was funded by state tax revenues, not by local