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SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am opposed to LB 262 and I have been from the very beginning, and I was against the concept when it was brought to the Legislature several years ago, the same idea, of the hotel-motel tax addition. I do have some questions that I would like to ask of Senator Hall. I am going to vote against the reconsider and I am going to vote against amendments, I am going to vote against the bill, just so you know what I am going to do, Senator Hall. But what I would like to know is, why do you feel and the people who are in this feel that you need another layer of authority? In Section 2, you outline the new group of people who would be deciding where this money would go. You already have a county board and you already have an arts council in Omaha, why do you feel the need for that?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Crosby, the bill does not create a new group of individuals. There is currently in place in Douglas County what is called the...thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hall, excuse me. (Gavel.) Go ahead.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you. Senator Crosby, there currently is in place a convention bureau, tourism board, that is appointed by Douglas County that currently uses, makes decisions with regard to where the current lodging tax is used for promotional consideration. That, LB 262 does not change that. It would still use that same group of people. It does not create a new board or a new commission to deal with that. What it does is give them a new option from which to use this additional tax, and that would be in the area of capital improvements to the attractions (interruption).

SENATOR CROSBY: Yeah, I understand what the money is going for.

SENATOR HALL: Okay, it does not create any new bureaucracy. The same people who are currently doing it would continue to do it and toward a different end.

SENATOR CROSBY: But in other counties, they do not have that, and so if this amendment does not go and the bill goes through, other counties would have the option, as I understand it, to set up a new group of people who would make these decisions. My point is this, I am always against another layer of people, and