

that is what we have in this bill. I am against an extra tax, that is what we have in this bill. Fifty percent of the taxes of this hotel-motel are paid by Nebraskans, families who take a weekend to go out to Grand Island or any of the places where there is a swimming pool, and a nice place, at a Holiday Inn or so on, and they do pay the taxes. It isn't just people from out of state. The second point that I feel the arts have gotten involved in this and two points about that. I doubt very much that people come off of I-80 with their families to go to hear the Omaha Symphony nor the opera. We do have a Nebraska Arts Council and local arts councils that work very hard to fund the arts in Nebraska, and they do a tremendous job. I do not want to see their mainline budget derailed by this bill. The other thing that concerns me about it is this, one of the commissioners in Douglas County has already promised Metro Arts that they would get \$100,000 from this fund if it goes through. I just do not like the idea of setting up a promise like that before the bill has even been debated, before it has been passed, and before the money might be available. I don't think the Legislature should operate that way and I don't think the Douglas County Commissioners should operate that way, but my main reason is I am against the raise in tax, I am against the hotel-motel people having to cope with it and having to add this on to people's bills, and I am concerned about the mainline budget of the Nebraska Arts Council, which is the group who does fund the local arts councils and the local arts groups, and as I have said before, they do a tremendous job. So I just wanted you to know, Senator Hall, that I am going to vote against you all the way down but those are my reasons. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Beyer, please.

SENATOR BEYER: Well, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I guess after some of the statements made the other day, I shouldn't be opposing the amendment because of a possibility it could benefit some of the motels in our area, but I think what we have to look at is that we have got an erosion of the sales tax base. We have allowed the cities to get into it. Every time we look at property tax relief, let's face it, the only way we are going to get property tax relief in the state is if we do raise sales tax. It gets harder for the state to do it when we keep allowing an erosion of the sales tax to other areas. Senator Crosby stated it very well. We have a Douglas County Commissioner that come in here with a bill wanting to buy Ak-Sar-Ben, wanted to use that money. Now he is in promising