

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. Speaker and members, we're now back to the amendment that we introduced earlier on the bill. It's been well discussed relative to the reconsideration. It simply identifies LB 262 to apply to counties over 300,000 or, in this case, Douglas County. So the discussion has already been pretty well dealt with during the reconsideration question, so I would move the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a comment. I know many of you have received lots of mail on this particular topic, and I know in my particular district my district was not excited about the concept of 262. They did not particularly want another tax and they didn't want to...they did not particularly like the bill. I think other people may have felt that if we kept the bill because of that pressure, if we kept the bill in its original form, saying that all counties would be able to, that that might be a way to kill the bill, 262, because many of us were receiving so much pressure from our areas and they didn't want it. I guess what the reason for introducing the amendment was, if the majority of the counties, and I suspect that is true out state, though not all certainly, if they were not necessarily in favor of it then we should go ahead and put the bill in the form that we would vote on for the major area that was in favor of it, or at least indicated they were in favor of it, and that would be the Douglas County area. If this amendment were agreed to, there's already been printed an amendment in the Journal that says that would, if adopted, by Senator Lindsay, which would say that this could no way relate to an Ak-Sar-Ben issue of capital construction or anything else. So those people that are saying, well, this is just an Ak-Sar-Ben issue, that would be dealt with a little bit later. I think in order to be fair to the introducer of the bill and to the intent of those people that wanted LB 262, the amendment should be agreed to because in essence we're saying this is the area that wants it, if they decide to use it, and it is an option, if they decide to use it the rest of the counties can look at it and say, boy, am I glad we didn't get a part of that, or maybe the counties will say we better reevaluate this because it was a success in Omaha, the Arts Council did get some things that they wanted, the county did get some things that they wanted, the people in Omaha were happy with it, maybe that wasn't such a bad thing. It's kind of like, if you wish, a test