

May 9, 1989

LB 814

Ft. Robinson is approximately 300,000 people every year. So I think even the opportunity to generate cash funds out of a project like this is great. So I would ask you not to delay this project. You do, unfortunately, still have the chance to reconsider on reaffirmation. I'd prefer you didn't, but that is okay, that's fair. But I would ask you not to take out the planning money, and let's....I think there has been adequate opportunity to evaluate the merit of the proposal. The ability also to generate private funds is there. And I would...we have built a lot of projects in this state, and we've put a lot of planning money into projects from time to time. And I can tell you that not all projects that get planning money are ever built. I can't tell you the whole history of that. But I bet, if we go back and look at how many things we just put planning money in, we didn't really ever act on. So I'd like to see a little stronger oomph from the Legislature on this. I'd like to see how the reporter spells oomph, that will be good. Maybe....At any rate, I think that that gives momentum to some interests that some private entities have already expressed as far as trying to support this. And so I would urge you to reject the Hall amendment and let's go ahead and build something that every Nebraskan will be proud of, that I think, frankly, will be as big an attraction as some of the things that we have supported in Omaha and Lincoln recently that links the state together, and we need to do that. One of the things that has particularly impressed me about the support that's come forward for this project is this isn't by any means a regional kind of proposal. If you take a look at that list of supporters, they're from all over the state, there's an east-west connection that is unrivaled. And I think this is one of those kinds of projects that is good for the state, good for the morale of the people of the state, pulls people together, east and west, instead of that unfortunate rift that is sometimes there. So I would ask you to go ahead and reject the Hall amendment and reject the Hartnett amendment, and let's get started on an attraction that we will be able to brag about, and frankly will be known outside the State of Nebraska and really will be a special attraction in this state. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Scofield talked about the east-west unity on this issue, and the breadth of support for this measure. Essentially, I think she