

motion to overrule the Chair.

PRESIDENT: The Chair is overruled. The call is raised. The question now is the advancement of the bill. Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, well, I hope we haven't gotten away from the idea of the bill. We kind of got off on a different tangent here on the environmental things, but what the bill does is the bill talks about payment and performance bonds and it says that the state on projects costing less than \$15,000 can, at their discretion, waive those bonds. Any state agency can do that, and it also provides that any local entity on a project that costs \$5,000 or less has the discretion to waive a bond in that case. What the bill is intended to do is to allow some smaller contractors an ability to bid on smaller state projects which they have been precluded from doing before because they had trouble with their cash flows in meeting the bond requirements. That is what the bill does right now. With that, I would just urge the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? If not, the question is the...Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, my light may be defective here. I would urge you to advance this bill. It's a good bill, it's a good bill for small contractors. It's very important to the kind of communities I represent, but I'd also like to put in a plug for little John William Lindsay and others like him because the issue that we've just finished discussing is very important to their future. And, as Senator Landis has pointed out, and I agree with him, the amendment I offered is better public policy than we have today and if you're not aware of how wide open things are out there right now, you need to be aware of that and we need to address that. Given a short session, I'm reluctant to say I'm going to bring in another bill, but with the kinds of things that are happening environmentally in this state, perhaps that should be a priority even in a 60-day session. And so, once again, I would urge to take a look at that issue and take a look at the report that has recently been completed and we need to address that issue before we go much further in developing some of these facilities that, frankly, can't get insurance, probably can't get a bond, and you and I and the little John William Lindsays and his peers are going to pay for if we don't clean up our act in Nebraska. But with that, I would say for today let's just advance this bill.