

amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Senator Hartnett, I was just reading along with you as you explained the amendment and I have a question about it. Currently, are we not using federal monies and some state monies for the purpose of economic development sorts of projects? Doesn't some of the block grant monies go into city budgets for purposes of economic development?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Withem, for a project like this, it will only use the general monies levied, just the sales and property tax.

SENATOR WITHEM: Would this proposal then, Senator Hartnett, make it so that they could not use? Will this foreclose using federal block grant money for these sorts of projects?

SENATOR HARTNETT: No.

SENATOR WITHEM: Why? I guess the way I read it, it sure sounds like it would.

SENATOR HARTNETT: No, what it is for these specific projects as approved under this constitutional amendment, they can only use sales and property tax.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, why shouldn't they be able to also package it together and use federal funds that are available instead of making the local taxpayers pick up the whole burden?

SENATOR HARTNETT: You could probably could use it, but just in the penalty, Senator Withem. We wanted to simply narrow it down so people knew where the funds were coming from.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay. Well, General File is the time to discuss things and to think about things. I still have the questions. I'm probably not going to oppose the amendment, but I have those questions I think maybe we need to talk about it before the bill goes further as to whether this is a good idea to...because it sure looks to me like, writing this in here, if you have a particular project that you might have some federal block grant money available to help support and you wanted to supplement that economic development project through sales and