

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. AM2926 is, as the Speaker mentioned, a redraft of the identical amendment which is on the last page of the Journal. To refer to the amendment, please turn to the last page of the Journal. The only difference is this, is that when the bill...the amendment was drafted by mistake we gutted Senator Elmer's bill, which did not please him in the least, and so we went up and had it redrafted. It does exactly the same thing, so I would ask you just to refer to, again, the last page of the Journal. It does this, this proposal, let me be very straightforward with you. The proposal has not had a public hearing. It is a small item that I don't think deserved a public hearing, and deserved the expense of the issue with regard to, you know, having a bill drafted. It is the kind of thing that I think clearly the intent is present in statute, but it is not spelled out, and I believe what this amendment does is nothing more than put into language what I think all of us would perceive to be the intent. It says this, it says an authority created pursuant to Section 3-502, Section 3-502 is the Airport Authority section. So it says, an Airport Authority may not pass, enforce, or maintain any ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation imposing any tax or fee or requiring any license or permit for the use of any highway or any street, road, avenue, boulevard or way of public access maintained by such authority. It says they can't charge tax to use their roads. That is all it says, they can't charge an entrance fee. In this case, the specific instance that we are talking about deals with the Eppley Airfield, it deals with the issue of parking. It deals with issue of money. It boils down to money, and who gets it. Does the Airport Authority get it through the use of their parking garage, or do the off-site parkers, who have grown up around the airport and have beat the rates at the airport, receive the money? Many of you might have followed this, may have seen some of the things about it with regard to the issues as they related to the stories in the World-Herald. There are even some editorials to the effect of whether or not a quasi-governmental authority in the form of an Airport Authority should have the ability to tax a business, in other words, off-site parkers who pick up and drop off their customers, and that is really what this amounted to. There was talk amongst the staff of the Airport Authority to place a tax on these off-site parkers to say, look, you are going to use our roads, we are going to tax your vehicles, those big vans that pick you up and take you to your car five minutes away because it is a little cheaper to park out there. We are going to tax those vehicles. They can't have the same kind of