

regulations for only the City of Omaha, the public policy behind that simply escapes me. It's bad public policy and it's a bad idea. Why the City of Omaha should have to meet this requirement when every other community in the state won't has no real good, solid, basic policy behind it and is poor public policy for not only the City of Omaha but for the state as well. The implementation of a tax or a fee is an obligation of publicly elected officials and if every time a controversial issue develops, we run to the people and make them make the decision, I don't understand why we elect people to public office. It does not make good sense. If the people in Omaha or any other community don't want a fee or a tax, then they have the obligation and the authority to elect those public officials or to not elect them and to throw those out...throw those public officials out who they don't believe are serving them well. But to single out the City of Omaha, in this instance, and to say everybody else has this authority except the City of Omaha just takes us right back down that road of mistakes that I think this Legislature has made time and time again in the past. And then the City of Omaha tries to come back in later and get the authority that's been denied it and the questions are then raised, well, why don't they already have this authority? And here...here you have a crystal clear example of why the city comes to the Legislature all the time asking for special legislation to take care of a problem where they were left out of the statutes. I would encourage you to consider the implications of this amendment and encourage you not to support it. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB PRESIDING

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President and members of the body, I also rise to oppose this amendment. This is part of Senator Horgan's bill that we had with garbage...or collection fees in Omaha and it only pertains to Omaha. All the other cities where I live, everybody else lives, pays a fee and without the vote of the people. And I think we're really making, as Senator Horgan said, a bad public policy to require the City Council in Omaha to have them vote where other people haven't voted in the past. So I do oppose this amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Morrissey.