

**SPEAKER BAACK:** The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. We will now vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate, have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 10 ayes, 11 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Debate does not cease. Senator Hall, you are next.

**SENATOR HALL:** Thank you, Mr. President and members. Again, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I hope I didn't leave the impression with Senator Morrissey that I objected to the bill. By no stretch of the imagination is that the case. I believe the bill, in its current form, is a good proposal. I think, Spence, what you did this summer, what your committee did this summer, what happened in terms of the solid waste plan that is represented in LB 1257, what was done was done appropriately. Recommendations were gathered, problems were identified, situations were laid out, input was taken from citizens, and it was a cross-section of people from across the state who took part in putting together this plan for cleaning up the environment. What we have here in this amendment is the absolute converse of that. We have a request on the part of the city for the ability to collect a fee before they ever put the plan in place. They haven't done the background work. They haven't done the legwork in terms of developing that plan that would look far into the future with regard to the needs of the Douglas County or the City of Omaha, and it should really be a joint effort. In this case, it is specific to Omaha as this amendment is drafted, but they have recognized the benefits of recycling on a couple of different occasions, but the system that they put in place has had plenty of problems that have been accompanying it. But yet with this amendment, what we do is allow them the ability to basically front-load the money, if you will, in terms of the system, without ever having gone through the types of efforts that you did on a statewide basis that is before us in LB 1257. That is one of my principal problems with the whole issue of the garbage tax or the garbage fee is that the justification or the rationale, the basis for it, has never been laid out. The argument is made that, well, it will allow for a better system, but they haven't done the dirty work. They haven't done what, no pun intended, they haven't done the work necessary to lay out and justify the separate fee. They haven't shown the citizens, they haven't shown the voters what they get