

business with the state who are precluded now because of the bonding process we have. And what this does, it increases the cost of construction projects from 15 to \$40,000 at which point formal bids are required. The reason for that, that in formal bids that, in other words, those bids under 40 are still required and we have to conduct some kind of a project search and bidding process but it eliminates the need for the performance bond...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...for the state projects now from up to \$40,000.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And one other question, there is a particular exclusion for the University of Nebraska and is that in...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, ma'am, if I can find the pages.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Do you agree with that then?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, I do.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay. Thank you. I will ask now for Senator Robinson, if he would respond.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Robinson, would you respond to a question, please.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Go ahead.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Robinson, the committee then shows the \$40,000 as a figure that would raise the amount that would come under purview or have a bond or all of these other qualifications. We raise that from 15 to 40 thousand dollars in this committee amendment. Can you tell me what rationale the committee used to raise that from 15 to 40 thousand?

SENATOR ROBINSON: It was recommended by the state architect and the possibility for more smaller contractors to be involved.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay. Our state contractor or architect being who? Is this Ripley?

SENATOR ROBINSON: Excuse me, I told you the wrong thing. It's