

happens to be only \$5 a year or \$10 a year, depending on what kind of driver you are or what kind of a lead foot you have or what kind of a car you happen to operate, but it's still a tax increase and it's spread out, granted, to the average driver in that way but there are those of us who aren't average drivers and consume a lot more in the way of motor fuels, thus we pay a greater burden in terms of the tax that is borne. The argument is always, well, you use the roads more. Many...in some cases that's true and others it's not necessarily accurate. The question, I guess, that needs to be answered is, do we continue to operate this way? And Senator Kristensen argues that the...that, and rightly so, that the fixed rate is split up and proportioned to the cities and the counties as well. That can easily be fixed. I mean, that is not something that is...that we, as a body, cannot adjust when we go in and raise that fixed rate. And, frankly, you know, there's some good arguments that the cities and counties could use additional funds in this area and that probably needs to be rethought and looked at again. I raise this amendment again because I believe that we need to vote up or down on this tax increase and I would hope that you would support the amendment that's before you. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Day.

SENATOR DAY: Thank you, Madam President and members, I rise in opposition to the Hall amendment. My first contact with this body was in 1988 when we were lobbying for the expressway system. Columbus, York and Norfolk banded together in a coalition and were able to successfully come down and explain to people why we needed Highway 81 four-lane. That was our main interest at that time. We're making some headway there but we're a long ways from getting it four-laned. Norfolk is probably the only major city that is over 50 miles from an interstate in the State of Nebraska. We have major trucking lines. We have many of the farmers in that area. We have Affiliated Foods. We have beef packing plants, all of which have trucks that are on the highways going back and forth, and the four-lane expressway is vitally important to our area. This is a tax increase. There's no doubt about that. When this all happened back in 1988, and I can remember going back and talking to the Chamber, everybody understood in our area that this was going to happen. We're going to have to pay for the roads if we want them. We continued at all times to be very supportive of the interstate system to make sure that Omaha and the other