

in opposition to Senator Vrtiska's amendment. The amendment, as it exists, would strike \$1,814,000 at the University of Nebraska that would be the enhancement to Engineering education and this is, as I understand it, it would impact both the UNL and UNO campuses. I stated the other day, and I believe it was yesterday, that when we were on this proposal and I was trying to add \$100,000 to the budget for a position of dean at the UNO campus that we need to enhance the Engineering education opportunities systemwide, not just on the Omaha campus. I continue to believe that. I...it was not something that was said hoping to garner support for an amendment. That is a fact. That's what the study that was done by engineers, actually PhDs, folks who work in this area who are in education in the Engineering field and in other capacities. Those individuals looked at what needed to take place at UNL, not... and UNO, the university system. It was not a situation where they made recommendations with regard to just merely the Omaha campus. And to adopt Senator Vrtiska's amendment would, I think, have us take a very giant step backward instead of moving forward with what I heard yesterday was a very deliberate process that folks wanted to adopt, wanted to stand by, that the university administration had recommended and had begun implementation of. To adopt Senator Vrtiska's amendment flies absolutely and totally in the face of the arguments that were raised with regard to the opposition of my amendment yesterday. I just think that we can't...we can't afford to cut back in the area of Engineering education. We need to invest more money there. We need to invest more money systemwide in this area. I rise again in opposition to Senator Vrtiska's amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Chambers, on the Vrtiska amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I want to mention something to you all that Senator Vrtiska said. He said let your conscience be your guide. Senator Vrtiska, when you say that in the Legislature that's like the blind leading the blind, and Jesus said when that happens they will both fall in the ditch. But, at any rate, Senator Vrtiska's amendment is not going to be adopted and we know it, but I want to use it as an opportunity to mention something about that letter that these hundred business people from Omaha wrote. Somebody had indicated that they should not have said that if they don't get their way, they will withhold