

adopt this amendment, what we, indeed, have done have determined...determined ahead of time what our options are. And until we...until the task force and the housing committee have the opportunity to make recommendations, I don't think we should be cutting off our options. Like Senator Wesely, I believe that it is the Legislature who will ultimately make the decision, and rather than making the decision prematurely this year, I think that we should make it next...next year and in the following years when we have more information at our fingertips, when we have an actual plan before us, and I would just strongly recommend against adoption of the Maurstad amendment at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. As I indicated previously, there isn't I believe doubt, any doubt in anyone's mind that this continues to be an issue that we are going to have to face in the coming years. The...I guess the argument at this point in time is whether or not the local government and local partnerships ought to continue to be at the forefront in trying to solve these problems at the local level, as opposed to the state getting involved at a time when our resources, of course, are limited. The housing trust...the report to the Nebraska Affordable Housing Commission from the housing trust fund committee indicated that an \$8 million investment, in essence, would be their recommendation to try to leverage \$40 million in private housing construction financing to try to provide the stimulus to have affordable housing available throughout the state. I would indicate that \$8 million in today's environment would be very...very difficult to come up with. So this gets down to the issue of, well, why not just put it in and then we can fund it if the point or the time ever comes, and I believe that most of us have heard in other issues when a question is asked, how...how's...how are we doing relative to affordable housing in Nebraska, and the answer would be without any funding, of course; well, we are continuing to study it; hopefully, someday, we'll be able to effect the problem, but, really, how do you expect us to be able to accomplish anything when the Legislature has not appropriated any funds as they've had the ability and opportunity to do. So it seems to me that if we have...have the need now that we could begin the process of trying to determine where the revenue source will be. There have been a number of attempts by the