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LB 382

SENATOR LANDIS: All right, gotcha.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Landis.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Landis, if this bill is voted on, there is no way that an arena component could be added later and lumped into this and funded through the throwback under this program. Is that true or not?

SENATOR LANDIS: Under the language in this amendment, there is no authority to do a sports arena.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so if...they can attach it, if they want to, but it's still a separate project, free-standing on its own...

SENATOR LANDIS: That's right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...as far as financing.

SENATOR LANDIS: That's right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Landis. That was what my understanding had been, but then I had a discussion over the noonhour with somebody who was...I won't say the person claimed to be knowledgeable but I thought I would better get that into the record because, during our discussion the last time on this bill, Senator Landis and I did both agree that under this bill no arena is anticipated. Beyond that, I think it was stated that the Revenue Committee insisted that the arena component be eliminated. So this bill is dealing only with the convention center. Even so, I still am opposed to it, but at least I want the record to be clear on what I am opposing. I hope that nothing I said created the impression that this includes an arena because I've tried to emphasize that the types of performances, concerts and so forth, that would be expected to be in an arena will not be in this proposal because a convention center is not amenable to those things. I did receive a letter. It was addressed to me but probably one was sent to all of my colleagues and it is from Frank Brown, who is president of the Omaha City Council. It is dated April 29, and here's the text