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LB 382

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And, members of the Legislature, the reason I'm going through the bill point by point is that there are significant aspects of it that have not been touched on by those who support the bill, and the parking facility was one of those that jumped right out because that's on the first page of the amendment. When they were talking about this, they didn't discuss it. And there are other things that I think the other senators need to pay attention to. This bill I don't think has the strength that those in Omaha think that it has, and the more discussion there is and the more your colleagues become aware...or your constituents become aware of what it is that you're supporting for Omaha, it might have a bearing on how you vote for it. Now what I started out saying on this bill, if this goes, the people in the area that I'm concerned about, and it's more than just those in my district, there are people to the north of my district, to the west of my district who need somebody to be concerned about their interests because that area has been terribly neglected by the city down through the generations, and it's being neglected now. And why should I be in favor of something which is offering nothing to that area and to the people who are there? Based on an article in the paper which was quoting a discussion by the County Assessor of Douglas County, homeowners in the area I live in are going to have their houses assessed above market value because of that across-the-board increase. People who are poor are going to have to pay a higher tax rate on their property than the wealthy. They're paying taxes on more than what the value of their property is. If bonds are let, are issued, general obligation bonds, and taxes are used to retire those bonds, the ones who get the least benefit are going to be paying more. There is nobody in the rural area who would sit quietly by and watch ag land be assessed above market value, and that would not be attempted. So I must be a voice for those people who otherwise would have no voice. These amendments and motions that I'm offering at this point are designed to generate an opportunity for me to discuss this bill. I will now go to subsection (5) of Section 3 which defines "eligible facility" and this is the definition: Eligible facility means any publicly owned convention and meeting center facility acquired or completed or substantially reconstructed or expanded after January 1st, 1999. I don't know if the city auditorium would qualify as a convention and meeting center facility. I'd like