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FLOOR DEBATE

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Senator Janssen, as I remember this bill, it was originally set up when Omaha got their convention center, and this was to be a mechanism by which the rest of the state outside Douglas County, Omaha, could share in the benefits of this whole deal and kind of compensated everybody else for the extra benefits given to Omaha. And in doing that, as I understand it, there may be about a million dollars coming in, in the first go-round, the first year of this, and that this may proceed for another 30 years or so, and if it proceeds at that rate, it's a pretty good...it's a pretty good chunk of money. The bill, as you know, also limits participation to a single project. That is, if you have one particular project in your community and you go in for an application and you put that money down on that center, that's the last money you're going to get for that particular center. Now, and I have to admit I'm speaking for Lincoln now as, you know, very parochial kind of thing, but if you look at the sizes of cities, basically you're saying a town such as your town, Fremont, could get up to \$500,000, and the city of Lincoln, which is maybe 10 times that size, or maybe not quite 10 times that size, could also get only a half a million dollars. Would you be adverse to looking at some sort of structure that would differentiate to some substantial degree the sizes of communities that are applying so that there is some rough equivalent of justice in terms of how many dollars for which size communities? Would that seem unreasonable to you?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you respond, Senator Janssen?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Beutler, I realize that \$500,000 for city of Kearney, South Sioux, Fremont, \$500,000 would help a considerable amount. That would be for a aquatic park or something like that, or a convention center. It would go a long ways, where the city of Lincoln and even Grand Island would look at that as being a small portion for a project that they would have. My problem right now is that the amount of money we have there at the present time isn't that great, and I would think that Lincoln would possibly want to wait until that fund got up there. And throughout, you know, in the next 30 years there's going to be a considerable amount of money in there. So that's the problem I have with it right now, is the fact that someone could come in and take that whole amount out. You know, it