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FLOOR DEBATE

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important to you and I than the legal. When we did this, there was a clear agreement, and I've never heard anybody argue about what the agreement was, that there was an enormous benefit going to Omaha from this bill, much more so, much more than any other part of the state benefited. But we also agreed that that was a good thing to do because Omaha is the magnet. Omaha can draw big convention business from other places. So it behooved us, as a state, to accommodate Omaha on something that was a big financial boon to them but, as a part of that deal, this fund was set up and everybody outside of Douglas and Omaha was to benefit from this fund. And, Senator Raikes, you ought to acknowledge that agreement, and people in here ought to stay with their agreements. Now, with respect to Senator Janssen's amendment, I have to say honestly that there was not discussion at that time about how that fund would be divided among the non-Omaha, Douglas County portions of the state, and so that is a matter of fair debate and we ought to be talking about it. I don't happen to agree that the current proposed solution is fair, but it is a matter of fair debate. To wipe out this fund entirely is not a matter of fair debate. It's a matter of broken promises. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I simply rise to oppose this amendment. I think Senator Beutler touched a lot of it; is we have a moral obligation to support other places besides Omaha. We have to look at tourism as our third largest industry in this state. We have to help the North Plattes. I don't think...I represent the third largest city. I don't think we'll be in applying for grants, but I think we have to help the other communities across this state apply for grants. I think we need to help them at the local level. They have to come up with...this is only part of the money that they're going to get but I think this little bit may help them and it will help tourism, help us get back. And, you know, we got a big deficit, whatever it is, \$600 million, \$700 million, but I think this is just a...is the wrong way to go, so I simply rise to oppose Senator Raikes' amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING