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rise to oppose this amendment. Tell you why. There's some things I agree with, what Senator Raikes has said, but I voted for this bill back whenever it was with the understanding that we would have opportunity to use some of the benefits from the Omaha Convention Center in rural Nebraska. So the Omaha Convention Center is being built and we can't very well pull out of that part of the commitment, so without being able to pull out of that I'm not willing to pull out of the commitment we made to rural Nebraska that said we could have a percentage of the increased revenue come out of the Omaha Convention Center. That's where I'm coming from. I understand what Senator Raikes is saying. We have a whole lot of these commitments we're going to have to look at, but that's my rationale. I voted for the Omaha Convention Center bill, as I called it, with the stipulation that we got 30 percent of it in rural Nebraska, and it is important to rural Nebraska. I have a couple towns out in my area that are looking at this as a potential funding source, as the fund begins to build up. I have no problem with the amendment. I think it...with the bill, no problem with Senator Janssen's bill. It does level the playing field so that someone in rural Nebraska would stand a chance of getting some help rather than it all go to a specific project in another city. So I support the bill. I understand what Senator Raikes is saying very clearly. We're going to visit these same sorts of issues time and again this session, whether it's dealing with the convention center and the commitment we made to rural Nebraska in order for me to support the bill, or whether it's the EPIC Fund, ethanol production credits, LB 775. We have a whole list of commitments we're going to be talking about this session. But, for the reasons stated previously here, I can't support the Raikes amendment because my support for the bill, the underlying bill, back in '99, whenever it was, was because there was a piece of the pie here for rural Nebraska. So I rise in opposition to the amendment, but do support the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, I wasn't going to get into this debate, but Senator Raikes has raised a point or two and I thought maybe I'd make some comments I'd