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all. It's simply up to each one of the county, the county board. All the funds simply will flow back through every...the county board has to approve all the budgets, what it's spent for and so forth, so it...what...I think what the hotel people said in the hearing is that they have to pay the tax. They really don't. They simply collect the tax. And another chart that I didn't pass out with the Omaha...with the major cities in...with NCSL study with...Omaha is right in the middle, as far as taxes are concerned for lodging, related to Denver, Des Moines, Kansas City and so forth. So we're really not...and that's with Omaha with a 2 percent tax. So I think their argument is that they have to pay the tax. That's simply not...that's incorrect. They simply will collect the tax.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. And I was just...I rise for that main point, was to clarify that I believe the Hotel Association as a whole would support the amendment that was adopted, but the Hotel Association as a whole doesn't support the underlying bill. The other information that I have shows that Omaha ranks in the top five as far as highest tourism tax localities in the country, and I think that speaks back to the issue of having the local taxation. And some of the concerns that I've heard from some of the hotel individuals across the state is what that does for them as far as being able to get return customers once they've found out that lodging tax is high. I'm going to sit and listen on LB 99. I'm not overwhelmingly supportive at this time, and I've received a lot of calls from people in my district and I need to do a little more background and look on that, but my main point was just to make sure that the record was clear on the letter that we had received from Senator Hartnett. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, I too have some reservations about this bill and I am getting calls from my district about this very thing, extending it, and the reason I have mixed emotions, I do understand what's going on here and I understand that it is a local board to make that decision. What does concern me is, as I've come to find out, as I've traveled the country and then come back to Nebraska, that