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FLOOR DEBATE

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everybody and lower the rate, which is what Senator Redfield proposes doing. So I'm a supporter of this concept of trying to expand the sales tax base. What's before us is somewhat a more modest version as compared to what Senator Redfield wants to do, but maybe that's all that's possible right now. I'm not as interested in the other aspects of what's before us. That's why I wanted to jump in and speak now. I'm not sure how I'm going to vote on this cigarette tax proposal. We've got the alcohol tax and some other things. I'm not as interested in doing the kind of patchwork stuff we've been doing in the two-plus years that I've been in here to try to put fingers in holes to stop the flooding. If we've made a good faith effort on school finance and some of the larger items before us and we still can't get there and we still need to do some of this other patchwork, these tax hikes in a patchwork fashion, then I might warm up to the idea, but I'm not as interested in some of the other aspects of this. But I will be supportive of the general concept of broadening the sales tax base, and I just wanted to get that on the record, Mr. President. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Not on this amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: Not on this amendment. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'm going to oppose Senator Chambers' amendment. That's all I'm going to speak to. Senator Thompson explained it. I just want to reiterate. We did remove \$3 million from the aid to cities, the municipalities, and left the \$3 million in for MIRF because of, in this case, Lincoln needing a commitment at least for two years. We felt it gave them time to adjust. Now it's been called to my attention, but I know nothing about it personally, that there's...what we did also affects Omaha in another way. So how to resolve that at this point between the two cities I'm not clear, but I think at this point we should vote...this...should not vote for this amendment till we understand better the ramifications. And these issues will be in the mainline appropriations bill so that there can be some adjustments if necessary. But be that as it may, this does,