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FLOOR DEBATE

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his budget is now \$156 million out of balance also. It's out of balance for a couple of reasons, the same reason the Appropriations Committee has a larger number than we would hope for. But when the Governor's budget was set, he had a number of bills that needed to pass the Legislature. They have been killed in committee, so they can't be used anymore to balance his budget. The school aid got certified at a different number and the Revenue Forecasting Board came in with a different set of revenue. So any hope that we might have that if the current Appropriations Committee ideas that we've been working on that have been presented to you that we need, that you can get by without revenue, period, doesn't hold true for the Governor's bill either. You're going to have to find \$156 million to balance his bill at this point in time. So there's a lot of work that needs to be done and on this particular amendment or any other ideas that are suggested, I urge you to keep an open mind, because either proposal is not going to be able to balance with the current bills that we have before us in the Legislature and with the current revenue and school aid certification. So I urge you to keep an open mind. I supported Senator Brashear's bill and what he's trying to do in modernizing our tax base and bringing it up-to-date and into sync with the states around us. Thank you.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think that this amendment would be an unwise and damaging amendment to adopt. This one, subsection 7 (sic), happens to relate to the city of Lincoln. It is a provision under which they've bonded for a number of years into the future and would cause serious problems. The next section, section 8 (sic), is the Metropolitan Class Development Act, which is Omaha's provision that happened to be passed at the same time for municipal construction, and they have also bonded under that provision, and I assume Senator Chambers is going there next. But the point is this. Once again, we're looking at one or two things out of context. There are other provisions relating to municipalities, for example, that don't apply to Omaha and Lincoln but are wastewater treatment facility funds that go primarily to very small towns and villages. Now you could go