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activity going on. As you well know, we are moving from a goods economy to a service economy, so you need to incorporate more services in the base in order to reflect economic activity, so that's one important reason that base broadening is something I think we should consider. The second reason that I favor it is exactly the reason that he's brought up. That by broadening the base there, in effect, is windfall, using Senator Brashear's term, windfall revenue there for cities, and I think it's entirely appropriate for the state to reclaim at least some of that, which then can be used in the other part of our budget dilemma, namely reducing the expenditure side or aid to cities. So again, I support his amendment for both those reasons. I think it's good tax policy to broaden the base, and if we do broaden the base I think it's appropriate for the state to reclaim at least some of that revenue. So with that, I'll stop. Thank you very much.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Brashear. Senator Brashear waives. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I stand in opposition to the Brashear amendment, should be no surprise. There are about 129 cities in Nebraska that do collect a local option sales tax. There are 523 cities in our state, which means that a very small percentage of our cities do collect a local sales tax. Senator Kruse I think, when he first spoke I hope you were listening, he said that cities were anticipating this windfall, if you want to call it that, this increase in local sales tax and they anticipated that that would be part of the package and, in return, they agreed to play nice throughout the process. I believe that they have. We haven't heard much from cities and I think we've seen true cuts. I mean, we haven't shifted any spending back to them and I think cities have seen in excess of 50 percent of their state aid cut in the last several years, unlike K-12, which we have seen spending shifts or we have shifted the cost of doing business from the state, from state aid, to local property tax. We're shifting back. I suppose I could support this amendment if, in fact, the same were held true for cities and perhaps even counties, as Senator Stuthman had suggested. If, in fact, we're going to take away the anticipated revenue, if we're going to continue to