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LB 283, 759

SENATOR TYSON: Let my time run, and I'll talk with Senator Bourne for a half a minute. It appears that he may be correct on this. Mr. Speaker, it appears that there is a drafting problem. And therefore I would ask that this be withdrawn, and I'll try it again in the right time.

SPEAKER BROMM: It is withdrawn. Thank you, Senator Tyson. Mr. Clerk, do we have anything further on the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Synowiecki would move to amend. (AM2104, Legislative Journal page 2059.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Synowiecki, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Kind of along the same lines as Senator Beutler was attempting to offset sections of LB 759, the revenue package, with funds from the federal economic stimulus package that we will be receiving, \$108 million. I now am attempting to amend with regard to the reconstruction labor portion of LB 759. The successfulness of revitalization efforts throughout all our older neighborhoods is in large part dependent on the updating of older dwellings. A major obstacle in accommodating this is a lack of capital to undertake such projects. Adding this additional tax on all the reconstruction efforts in Omaha and all other areas would further diminish the possibility of undertaking these much needed reconstruction projects. I think in terms of stimulus of the economy, this one makes most...the most sense. This makes the most sense. We're going to take away the tax, the disincentive to rehabilitate homes, to provide for reconstruction projects. In terms of...to be parallel, if you will, with the federal intent of this relief package that we are receiving, I think it is fitting and very appropriate that we use these funds to discontinue the disincentive of construction projects. I think it makes entire sense to adopt my amendment to do away with the tax on reconstruction labor. Again, as I've said many times, it is a tax I feel strongly that is disproportionate to moderate- to low-income homeowners, particularly, in my district, as well, with landlords needing rehabilitation of the homes. It's not being done now. And to