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opening on AM3372. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I have had some sporadic conversation with Senator Synowiecki, and I appreciate, in the time between General File and Select File, the dialogue that we've had. I actually think it's been pretty productive. I hope he believes the same. However, what I would say about AM3372...and I did express this at somewhat of a high level to Senator Synowiecki. I do rise, respectful opposition to the amendment. Let me lay out a couple of general reasons why. And I can get into specifics if necessary, and then maybe if Senator Synowiecki had some questions, we can deal with those. The blighted area...if you look at what we're trying to accomplish with this bill, blighted areas are those that are probably, in a lot of ways, as far as renovation is concerned, the areas that most need this type of energy efficiency. You could probably look at how...if you look to the bill, you could probably look at how a lot of this would lay out. On page 4 of the amended bill, if you look to line 15, Senator Synowiecki and I had discussed this language, and it was of some concern to him. And I'm reading from the bill now. Renovation means alterations on an existing building which will cost more than 50 percent of the replacement cost of such buildings at the time the work is commenced, and so on. I guess the thing is, if you look at it that way and you look specifically at the fact that the renovation is the only piece of building that's going to have to be adhered to, I guess, technically, have to be adhered to the 2003 IECC standard. We're talking about new building. And we're also talking about over 50 percent of the structure. Now I don't know if I'm clear on that. Let me rephrase. If it...if the building is being renovated and over 50 percent of that building is being renovated, that over 50 percent that's being renovated is the section that's going to have to adhere to 2003 IECC standards. Now here's the kicker. That's happening already right now anyway. According...the city of Omaha is essentially adhering to the 2000 International Residential Code, Chapter 11, I should say. Now that is in parallel, or commensurate to, the 2003 IECC standard. So therefore, the code is being adhered to now. If somebody wanted to go in and renovate \$52,000 worth of a \$100,000 building, they are adhering to those standards.