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FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2004 LB 625

for the return to Select File. But again, I'm not sure that Senator Chambers' amendment goes far enough. I'm not sure that we should go forward with the bill prior to sorting this out and making sure that that \$500,000 is not at risk. So I'm going to continue to listen to the debate. I will be voting to return for Select File, because I'm not comfortable yet, in my mind anyway, that the advantages of passing the bill justify the potential loss of a half a million dollars.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Chambers. And this will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I will offer other amendments so I will have the opportunity to speak. We are all speaking from our perspective. Senator Bourne is correct in laying on the table what is actually at stake. You perform a weighing activity, the \$500,000 potentially lost on one hand, based on what this bill does on the other. I stated at the outset, or near the outset, that there is no compelling reason to pass such a bill as this. The housing industry is not about to go belly-up. They cannot point to any violations or wrongful conduct on the part of these testers. But if they can throw roadblocks in the way of this activity, they will do it. As Senator Bourne pointed out, if the \$500,000 is lost, nobody is going to come up with it. When I talked to somebody in another branch of government, they said what Senator Brown said, that they don't believe that even if...if this puts Nebraska out of compliance, that money will be withheld, the state will be given time to get it right. And when I asked, but suppose they don't? This is land...this is ground that HUD has already gone over with Nebraska. That letter was dated 2003. They explained the difficulties that existed with the Attorney General's Opinion. Then you're going to pass a law that puts into statute the questionable position of the Attorney General. You remove all doubt by mandating the release of this information that HUD said cannot be released. So do you think they're going to give you a year after you put it in their face? They can read back to this letter that they sent. It's there. And you all have it. So after having told you that what the Attorney General said goes against two positions that HUD has taken, and they want additional