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FLOOR DEBATE

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rise in opposition to the amendment that is before us because, in fact, we have a bill that started out with a very minimal expense of a \$5 million bond and would mushroom for the city of Omaha to \$25 million, fivefold increase. I don't believe that we passed the bill on General File with that expectation. I would not have supported the bill if it had started out at that dollar amount without a guaranteed vote of the people. I think that the general understanding of the public in Nebraska is that whenever a bond of any amount is going to be let by a public entity, they expect that they're going to be able to vote on it. And this certainly is going to break that precedence, and I think that it exceeds the bounds of sensibility, and I would urge those from Omaha to stand against the amendment as it is drafted. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Langemeier.

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. As I sat in committee and listened to this bill as it came before us, the \$5 million was a concern to me. And as I looked at Schuyler, and we've tried to pass some school bonds and \$5 million looks like it would have passed the last school bond, I had concerns that we could go and pass a school bond through this program without the will of the people. And as I looked at the restricted funds classification in this particular bill, there's no way they could ever get to the \$5 million. If they could have got to three-quarters of a million, would have been top end. And so I looked at it as that value to Schuyler, and the \$5 million maybe for the bigger communities. And the way it's structured with the voting and the ability to basically bypass a vote unless you petition to prevent that, I think it's crucial that we keep it at \$5 million across the board, and that would address the bigger communities. And the smaller communities, their restricted fund level is going to restrict their ability to do it anyway. And with that, I'd yield my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Langemeier. Mr. Clerk, motion on the desk.