

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 7, 2006

LB 248

So I'm going to continue to oppose Senator Bourne's amendment, and then I will certainly listen to Senator Mines' amendment, which I think probably addresses their concerns more than simply eliminating the committee amendment we adopted on General File. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Preister. Is Senator Preister on the floor?

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'm sorry. I did not see you. I apologize.

SENATOR PREISTER: There were so many people in front of me I wasn't so visible. Thank you, Mr. President, friends all. I rise to support Senator Bourne's amendment. I think the discussion has been on point and is accurate that we're not essentially taking money away, but we are restricting the use of that money. Currently, the \$9 million goes into the General Fund, and that would no longer be the case as it currently stands. Again, it looks like we're taking away the local control and telling Omaha how or how it should not spend that money that it's going to get anyway, just because. And probably it is currently going for roads, but it's going for a host of genuinely legitimate spending needs in the city. And there are actual roads expenses that may not fall under roads. Some of the costs to engineering and doing some of the studies, some of the other things, the city does have to pay for. So restricting how they use those monies, we know the city of Omaha is going to spend well over \$9 million on their streets and roads, and they're currently looking for ways that they can stretch those dollars, maximize their use, be able to leverage more federal dollars. There are far more needs than they have the money to spend. There's far more than \$9 million going into the streets and the roads for the city of Omaha. Restricting how and where and why they use these funds, I don't think we should be doing. I don't think we should be second-guessing them, and I'm going to support Senator Bourne's amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Landis, on the Bourne amendment, AM2110.