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LB 1105

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Brown. We have Senator Redfield, followed by Senator Beutler, Landis, and Synowiecki. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members of the body, I rise in support of LB 1105 and the amendment that is before you. I think that clearly the project in Omaha has demonstrated that they have certainly generated a great deal of economic activity. It would hardly be fair for us to penalize them and not allow them to count the Berkshire Hathaway meeting when in fact it has outgrown any other facility and would have left the city but for the project that was built. So I think clearly this is new activity that would not have occurred but for the bill, and I thank the Revenue Committee members for allowing this change to the formula that we created years ago. I will tell you that the Revenue Committee did not have rose-colored glasses on at the time that we passed the original Qwest Center amendment, but I do think that those who were building the project took the word of some developers from out of town and the studies that were presented before them that probably projected the out-of-town visitors for the convention center facility itself in a light that was not to be realized, certainly in an economic downturn and at a time when there was a lot of competition from other facilities that were built across the nation. So I think this is a good compromise. I wholeheartedly support both the bill and the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to speak for a moment in favor of the bill. Obviously, our colleagues in Omaha are the people who are most concerned about the developments that have occurred, and for myself, I have no objections to providing some additional assistance there. Probably the aspect of this that those of us who are not in Omaha tend to look at and tend to have an