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Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I find it amusing--I've always found it amusing since I've been here, fourth session here--humorous that people consider, some people consider, most of the time outside of this body, actions in here to be inaction. There's 20-some amendments on this bill right now. That's action. This bill has been up here, we've been dealing with it for four days now, five days. That's action. I find it amusing when somebody from outside this legislative body says inaction is not an option. Really, is that right? I don't see inaction here, and I see if this bill doesn't pass, that's not inaction. That's action by 49 members of the body making a conscious decision not to move legislation that could be bad for the state of Nebraska, could be. I want to make a couple points. Minds are made up, Senator Chambers believes that, a lot of other people do in here, too, that minds have been made up. We know where we're going to go with this. I can accept that. The committee statement showed us at the very beginning of this whole process, Ron Raikes was alone. Senator Raikes was alone as a proponent for this bill. I don't see Millard joining him. I didn't see Ralston joining him. I didn't see Omaha joining him. I didn't see anybody joining him. Senator Raikes was alone. There aren't any organizations that liked this. That might have been the hammer that brought everybody to the table anyway. Now we're to the point we might never know that. We may never know that, if the hammer was there, because I think one of the actions we took was a little bit of panic. We didn't think Omaha was going to come. Senator Landis didn't think Omaha was going to come. The hammer was needed. Other folks on this body, maybe Senator Raikes didn't believe it. The hammer was needed. The hammer is Senator Chambers' amendment. What Senator Chambers' amendment has done, we all know this, whether it's real or just perception, it has changed the complexion and the goals of LB 1024. The goals of LB 1024, the way I read it, learning communities, funding equity, new creative ideas for governance, potentially to deal with unique demographic concerns that the Omaha metropolitan area has. Now we're dealing with language in