

there, not a new sales tax base, not a new sales tax for one year, but the bonding through the property tax, a mix of maybe some cigarette tax that is going to fall off in a year or two,...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...maybe some city sales tax that currently is there, and a seat tax. The seat tax is supposed to be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the building. What happened to the music hall and the civic auditorium? Go sit in those seats. See if you can get out without tearing your pants or your skirt. They are terrible. They haven't...they have let it fall into disrepair specifically for the reason so they can push this proposal because it is the easy way out. And then we will become the scapegoat because we didn't pass it. Frankly, we shouldn't pass it. We should move forward, push for a new convention center. This state needs it. We need to grow up and be a big city in Omaha. We need a mayor who is willing to put their position on the line, stand up and do that. It is a question of leadership. Senator Ashford has shown that. He has been given no other choice but this one. I would urge us to reject the sales tax, move forward to build a new convention center, using the bonding authority, the other revenues that are out there. Senator Ashford, I applaud you. I just can't support you this time.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the Ashford amendment. There is a variety of issues that I've heard, a variety of reasons that I've read or heard or listened to. My position is not new. It is one I've held since the first time this issue came up, and that is the simple issue of giving away a portion of the state tax base. I have absolutely no quarrel, in fact, I would argue that a sales tax, a local option sales tax is an excellent tax for local govern...for municipal government. It is an excellent way for them to export a portion of their tax load, the kind of thing I would like to find better ways to do at the state level. My opposition, however, I rest, and all of you I am sure have received, and perhaps you haven't, I don't know, but in the last month or so a recent publication of financing state government in the nineties, it's written by the National Governors Association, and the National Conference of State Legislators,