

only the people of Omaha, but the State of Nebraska needs to recognize that it is a source of entertainment, it is a source of not only entertainment for local people but also for people coming in from out of town. It needs to be renovated. The zoo and Rosenblatt Stadium are both things that have been included in the concept behind this. They are things that also attract tourists, not only to Omaha, but to the State of Nebraska as well, and I think it is a wise expenditure of funds to allow the City of Omaha to tax its own residents for a short time to provide some money for these facilities. And I think, because...and the bottom line is, it comes down to the fact that the voters did approve these and it is something that I think we, as a Legislature,...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WILL: ...the least we can do, the least we can do is recognize the right of the citizens of the largest city in this state to impose a tax upon sales within that city, if they so desire. And especially given the very strict constraints, not only for the use of the money, but for the duration of the tax. I would urge your support for this amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Fisher.

SENATOR FISHER: Madam Speaker and members, I rise in support of this amendment. I know it is a tough decision. I certainly do appreciate what Senator Warner has said when he spoke regarding this, but it is our position to allow Omaha to do this. I needn't tell you how bad they do need it. Omaha, we must be reminded, is the flagship of Nebraska. They have the cultural, I don't live there, and I don't desire to, but I do appreciate going there. I do try to attend as many events there, and it is needed, and it is a very good showplace for the State of Nebraska. That's where, that's where we expand out from. The reason I support this is the City of Omaha voted for it, and they voted for specific items to be renovated, to be improved. They were fully aware of it. They approved of it. They did it for a time certain, and I think that they deserve to...we deserve to give them that opportunity to continue and do that. We all participate, and I know you hear the argument that we have to go to Omaha and pay the sales tax, sure we do, but we enjoy what they have there. It is a very cosmopolitan city, a city we ought to be proud of, and they do very seriously need a better coliseum, a better downtown auditorium. I ask that you