

years that I've been in the Legislature, been able to explore Nebraska and learn about it. And I remember when I was young, I think the first time I came to Lincoln I was about ten years old and I had never been outside of Lincoln until that time. But in the last eight years, myself and my family have been able to travel around and have been...this state, and I love it, it's a wonderful place, and I was able to go out to Senator Hillman's district with the opening of the Gering Civic Center, and go to various places, and it is a wonderful place. It's a wonderful place to be and it's a wonderful place to be from. But, as an Omahan, we need to...to show you and the rest of the state that we can be great in Omaha, that we can do great things, but we need to start. And what I'm deathly afraid of, deathly afraid of, and Senator Hall and I have had this conversation for five years, ever since we started talking about this issue, that if we don't get this done,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...we won't go to the next step. There will be no next step. We'll sit back on our heels again. We won't do what needs to be done. This project, whether it was Mayor Morgan, or whoever it is, it isn't Mayor Morgan's project, it isn't my project, it's the project of the people, of the citizens, the people of Omaha who voted to have this thing done. It's their project. And I would suggest to you, members, that it is their gift to all of us in Nebraska. We're not asking anybody else to pay this tax. We're not asking an existing tax to be allocated for Omaha. We're asking that you allow us to raise the revenue locally to do a project which I think will start the development of downtown Omaha into being a great city. With that, Madam President, I urge this body to please attach this amendment to LB 1087. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: And I would ask for a call of the...I thought...well, I would ask for a call of the house and ask for a roll call vote in regular order.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. There's been a request for a call of the house. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 40 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, to go under call.