

we keep our existing state sales tax rate does the City of Lincoln have the right to go up another half cent. It says until the effective date of a change in the rate of sales tax is imposed to 5.5 percent or greater, that's the state sales tax rate, then we'll have the right to have this half-cent rate in the City of Lincoln. So the City of Lincoln is not asking to have the state sales tax base devolve to the city on a permanent basis. We are asking for a loan of the sales tax base for as long as the state is not using it. This body knows that we have an outlying year of 60 to 70 million dollars of expenses. It's entirely possible that we will have a state sales tax increase in the very near future, in which case this proposal would go out the window and the City of Lincoln would be back where it is. If, on the other hand, there's two or three years before that occurs, the City of Lincoln would be able, once it's had a vote of the people, to be able to do that. So, in furtherance of the discussion that we had earlier and all of the reasons that Senator Ashford raised as to the legitimacy of local usage, I can tell you that the city sales tax is to be used for street improvement, construction, reseriving, maintenance. We've analyzed our needs and our unfunded road needs rise to the level of 30 to 35 million dollars over the course of the next five years, six years, and we have considerable road needs to do that. I would ask for the adoption of the amendment to LB 1087. Be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President...Madam President, Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote. Priority motion, Senator. Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote just taken on the Ashford amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, in talking about the Ashford amendment with some of the senators, it was not supposed to have the kind of support that it did, so I was not going to take the time that I must now take. And I told Senator Coordsen that if the amendment was attached to his bill, then his bill is the vehicle that I have to take after and I will. And if this...if this motion is voted down, it is just a signal of what is before us. This is a tax that I have always opposed, not just for Omaha but, period, the sales taxes imposed by cities. And I intend to fight this measure for the rest of the session or