

away to a city and then have a difficult time wresting it back or stopping the body from doing what would be right to do in funding state obligations and raising sales taxes. I have been here for 16 years and when we've needed to I have voted to raise sales taxes to meet state obligations and I continue to do so. What the amendment offers to do or asks to do is to borrow the state tax base until such time as the state needs it. When this body sees in its wisdom that the state needs to raise its tax levy, the taxing authority in the primary class city would be done away with. Vote of the people, it is not in competition with the state tax base, it simply is a borrowing of the state tax base if you will. Our public hearing featured the mayor of the city, Mike Johanns, coming in and explaining to the body, first, that we have \$60 million of unfunded road needs in the city; secondly, that we are very highly bonded in the City of Lincoln, largely due to our school system and, secondly, because 40 percent of our property is not on the tax rolls. It is in some form or other, tax exempt and, therefore, bonds have a difficult time by applying a pressure on so much, so little property which is, in fact, on the tax rolls. I ask the body to adopt the amendment, let it take its place besides the Omaha sales tax and advance. I know that Senator Chambers has motions filed. I know that Senator Jones is pursuing some other motions. I would be happy to answer questions. I've been around and talked to people. I know the City of Lincoln has done so. It's late in the evening, but if we can I'd like to move expeditiously to a vote on the matter to see whether or not the body would be kind enough to allow the City of Lincoln to use the tax base on a temporary basis until such time as the state has sufficient needs that it intends to raise the sales tax base for itself in which case this taxing authority disappears. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Mr. Clerk, we have a priority motion.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, Senator Chambers would move to bracket the bill until April 14.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, we may as well get underway now. There were senators who sat on their hands, there are others who have talked to me and I've listened and I think the battle line has been drawn and it's an issue of whether or not