

in fact, prohibited to any sort of revitalization, any sort of attempts to take an older building and save it. The signal that you are sending, Senator Vickers, is a very simple signal. It is, tear down those old buildings, don't preserve a darn thing because, you know, Senator Vickers has this concern about the word or the areas designated blighted and substandard. Now I don't mind, in fact I have been somewhat understanding of your overall concern for blight bond bills or bonding authorities, but this is a different issue, Senator Vickers. This is what is going to be required to repair the old buildings. If they make substantial renovations to those old buildings, will they have to meet the existing energy codes, and if they do that, they won't ever remodel or renovate those old buildings. They will have to tear them down. Now the exemption is a reasonable one. It has nothing to do with blight, with bonds of any kind which has been your traditional concern about these areas. Your neighborhood, you may not want to see any sort of changes made in rural Nebraska, but for crying out loud, some of these old buildings need to be preserved and they cannot afford to make the modifications that you are talking about, and I would rather see those kinds of changes take place as opposed to tearing buildings down. So I would urge this Legislature to recognize the wisdom of the amendment and to support it...to oppose the Vickers amendment and support the committee's original proposal.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Wesely, do you want to speak on the Vickers amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. Madam President and members of the Legislature, this language did come from the City of Omaha in particular, and what we are attempting to do is to provide for a recognition that in a blighted area or a substandard area, and I think Senator Vickers is concerned about definitions from the previous bill, that because of the circumstances in those areas, we should not force them to comply with this energy code as would be the case in other areas of the state, and we are trying to provide an incentive for them to renovate in these areas that are blighted or substandard. So the goal is I think a worthy one in this legislation, and in my estimation I don't see the problem Senator Vickers does. I know he is concerned about definition of substandard, but I think that is an issue to be dealt with elsewhere, not in this particular legislation. So I would ask you to oppose the Vickers amendment and we can deal with his concerns in another area.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Schmit, do you wish to speak on the Vickers amendment? There are no other lights on, Senator