

serve on the Revenue Committee. I have had a checkered career with the history of various sales tax increases on the Omaha issue, the Lincoln issue, and now 890. I voted for this bill. I think Harold Sieck has brought us, I think a novel approach is what Chris Abboud called it, and I would agree with that and it is based on a showing of a local base need to a constituency and having them support a project towards that end. The historical standard has been that somebody who has wanted the extra 1/2 percent had to show a legitimate clear and present need for it. That is the burden that Omaha met. That is the burden that Lincoln met. It is not the burden that has been met in this case. I can tell you that I think as a matter of an extension of the trend, I would support it with respect to first class cities. However, my motion to amend in essence the Lundy bill in committee fell short and failed and I was prepared to report it out. I am not prepared to support the amendment and the amendment will endanger my support for the bill which I am ready to make if it simply extends to first and second class cities this authority. I think there needs to be a showing, and the showing hasn't been made, and that is the reason that I am opposing the amendment in this form.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers. Senator Harris is next, then Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose the Lundy amendment and I do so from a perspective of being rather consistent. I opposed the 1/2 cent sales tax extension for Omaha as well as for Lincoln. I am not sure exactly what I am going to do on LB 890 itself, but I think it is rather ironic that at a time when we have a whole lot of people in the State of Nebraska that have a great deal of economic difficulty, many of them living in the rural area, and admittedly some of them living in the urban areas as well, but many of them living in the rural areas not being able to even keep their land let alone pay their property taxes, here we have the cities coming in saying, you know, we would like to have a sales tax or the ability to raise the sales tax to 1 1/2 percent or a mechanism, and it has been called novel and it sure is, that will make it easier to get a sales tax on approved by the voters so that those people that come to this town and come to this community, we can get them to help pay our property taxes. That is basically that simple. When I go to a community that has a local sales tax, I am helping them pay their property taxes.