

vote for the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise to oppose LB 461 and I think probably the only...there is a couple of really strong reasons not to support LB 461. The first one, as I read the amendment as the bill has been adopted, is that we will be essentially setting up a lobbying group to lobby the Legislature as well as the Governor and other state agencies to provide for more funding for public radio. If you will take a look at the amendment, on line 6 and 7, it states that the commission shall seek funding from federal, state, foundation, and private sources for capital construction and annual appropriations. Now, the way I read that section of the amendment which has become a part of the bill at this time is that they will be contacting the Legislature and telling us why they do need more money. Now, it is my opinion that we already have too many lobbyists in the state as it is and it is my opinion that we have too many lobbyists that lobby the Legislature, always asking for more money. Now, it is my belief that the Legislature shouldn't encourage this type of situation by establishing different commissions to lobby the Legislature for more money, and I think that is all essentially that this bill would do at this time. A second problem with the bill is that it will be in competition with local radio stations and I think that is important in the fact that really in the discussion here today there really hasn't been any compelling arguments to have public radio. I don't think there have been any compelling arguments that will show that this will benefit the State of Nebraska and the residents of the State of Nebraska. It has just been kind of glossed over by saying that we are not going to spend any money on public radio this year, and since we are not going to spend any money, then it must be a good bill. I don't think the proponents of this legislation have given us sufficient reason to provide for a public radio station in different sections of Nebraska that aren't presently having public radio. And with that, I would like to look to a handout that was handed out by one of the proponents of LB 461 and it states that at the present time Nebraska's two largest population centers are currently provided public radio service, the Omaha Public School station, KIOS, as well as UN-O station, KUNO, currently broadcast in the Omaha area, as well as KUCV which broadcasts in the Lincoln and