

is important. It is going to be a reduced operating cost which eventually will translate into less of a necessity or desire to request additional state assistance. We know federal funds are probably going to be reduced and I think that this opportunity to use General Fund money, not violate the trust fund, is a desirable and appropriate place to go, and as a matter of fact, a long term policy, it is going to be a superior one than to dip into those Trust Funds at the expense, and the only ones that are going to lose is at the expense of the cities and the counties.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Nelson, would you like to close please?

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, Mr. President, I will make it just very short. I know we have other matching funds. I think last year when I think about it, the predator control bill I believe would have cost us 63,000 and the matching funds was 112,000. We saw fit not to fund that. I seem to think that the farmers and ranchers and so on and the loss of their turkeys and their cattle and their hogs and their sheep is very comparable. I know \$800,000 may not be a lot of money, but I think this is a particular one case, it is a one-time shot. I am certainly not changing the basic formula and I know that many of us outstate can go out and say that, well, at least I didn't have to spend \$800,000 to buy a new bus for Omaha. I think it is more fair to everyone. I am not asking for a cent on gasoline. I am not asking anything whatsoever like that. I know that the cities and counties are in there and I can't change that. We would have to have a statute change to change that and I don't think I am being unreasonable to ask for this switch for this one-time thing. And no doubt the buses are probably important to Omaha as they are up against the cap limit, the 7 cents, the same thing as I was on the community colleges, and I might also add something else in this. My question was, why can't Omaha take this out of their 1 1/2 cents on their sales tax? And the simply answer was, is they don't want to. Well, again maybe I don't want to fund that, and they say, well, we would be taxing ourselves to give it to another subdivision government, and I guess what is good for the goose is good for the gander, and I think the same situation applies right here. I am not out to cut out the area transit entirely but I think this is only fair to everyone, and with that I move it be moved.