

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB310

Hearing Date: Thursday February 12, 2015
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Davis
One Liner: Change provisions of the Niobrara Scenic River Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Friesen, Hughes, Johnson, Kolowski, Lindstrom, McCollister, Schilz, Schnoor

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Al Davis
Mike Tuerk
Mike Murphy

Representing:

Introducer
Niobrara Council; Keya Paha County
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

The Niobrara River is designated as a scenic river by federal law under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The purpose is to protect the river for the "benefit and enjoyment of all." The Niobrara Council was created to be a local management partner with the National Park Service, and the Legislature codified the council for the management of the Niobrara River in 2000.

The Niobrara Council voted in December to recommend the changes contained in this bill. First, the bill removes the prohibition on council members participating or voting on matters before the council if they voted on the same matter as a member of a county board, county planning commission, or natural resources district board, and removes the provision that prohibits such member from being counted for purposes of a quorum.

The bill also removes the Governor's power to appoint council members from the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
