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FLOOR DEBATE

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to land that lies in another county. If you allow one county in an NRD to sabotage a flood control project that benefits other counties, then you're creating a situation where clearly the public good does not have a chance to emerge because the county where the flood control structure is located totally controls, totally controls. Same thing with recreation...with...with flood control structures that have enormous recreation benefits. Such was the case in Cass County. In Cass County there would have been a recreational lake on the recreational trail that is now stretching out and connecting Lincoln and Omaha at about a halfway point, an enormous positive vision for the residents of Lincoln, for the residents of Omaha, and I think ultimately for the residents all along the way in-between. The NRD, in that particular instance, approved of the project, went all the way through the process, lined up state funds, committed their own funds, approved the project and then, at the last minute, two of three Cass County Commissioners would not vote to close the roads and nothing could be done. Interestingly, the county commissioner that represents the town of Plattsmouth, the one large town in Cass County, voted to close the roads, recognizing that his constituents obviously had some interest. But I submit to you that the need for recreation in eastern Nebraska has to get a better shot than what it is allowed under the law today. It is not fair or right or good public policy to allow two county commissioners in a particular county to shut down a project that has enormous recreational benefits for the people in the two largest towns in Nebraska and in Cass County itself and in Plattsmouth. The NRD Association supports a compromise, obviously, and I don't think they have been, in any sense, greedy. I've passed out to you an explanation of their association's support. They are not asking to have total control over the county. All they are asking is that the public benefit be looked at as a whole in any particular situation, and that a determination be made by arbitrators, which is appealable to the courts, based upon the public good. It is hard for me to understand how anybody looking at a situation fairly could come to any other conclusion but that the two types of government, county and NRDs, should have a process for integrating and bringing together their respective interests. I've passed out to you also an article describing the vote against building the dam, in case you're interested in reading about that. I also