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FLOOR DEBATE

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frame, or a different context in this discussion. "Blight" and "substandard" is within the Nebraska Community Development Law, and...Section 18-2103. And blight and substandard areas is a misnomer, and should have been labeled something different years ago. It should be called a redevelopment area. What blight and substandard is, is local municipalities can designate an area within their boundary to...where they can offer things like tax incentives, tax...TIF, tax increment financing, which I know Senator Hartnett dearly loves. And so blight and substandard, it really has very little to do with what's in that area. Now, there are definitions within the statute that define dilapidation, deterioration, age, and obsolescence, those kinds of things. But as an example, Warren Buffett's home is in a blight and substandard area. It's a designation that a municipality makes to create the ability to offer tax increment financing or to redevelop certain areas. Now tax increment financing can be used to...or is used for the development of infrastructure, and is a way to attract business to an area. But I believe it may be misused in this context. And I think that the underlying bill, LB 888, and its intent, would not do harm to perhaps what Senator Synowiecki is believing may be an area in his or mine or anyone's district. So with that, Mr. President, I relinquish my time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Mines, thank you. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, I had my light on before (laugh) Senator Mines mentioned tax increment financing, the TIF. But I think...as Senator Friend said earlier on the amendment, the committee amendment I think gives to the local authorities the jurisdiction to do anything they want to. They can take care of the blighted, they can do anything. That's the way it was; I think it was acceptable. As the bill was originally, it was...the power was in the State Energy Office. We change it back to the local. So I think it leaves up to the locals, like Omaha and Lincoln, to handle this with the committee amendment. And I don't think we need Senator Synowiecki's amendment. I think it's already there in statute, and I think it will do the job that Senator Synowiecki...and I know that he's trying to represent the people. But I think the bill does it right now with the committee amendment that was