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Natural Resources Committee
January 23, 2015

[LB86]

The Committee on Natural Resources met at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 23, 2015, in Room 1525 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on LB86. Senators present: Ken Schilz, Chairperson; Curt Friesen, Vice Chairperson; Dan Hughes; Jerry Johnson; Rick Kolowski; Brett Lindstrom; John McCollister; and David Schnoor. Senators absent: None.

SENATOR SCHILZ: Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Natural Resources Committee. I'm Senator Ken Schilz, Chairperson of the committee and I'm from Ogallala. I'd like to take a moment to let the committee members introduce themselves. I tried to do it the other day, but I...I was reading off a sheet and I didn't look the right way and a couple of them switched places. (Laughter) So somebody might have been confused. But I'll just let them introduce themselves. And we'll start over here with Senator Kolowski today.

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Senator Rick Kolowski, District 31 in the Omaha area.

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: John McCollister, District 20, central Omaha.

SENATOR SCHNOOR: Dave Schnoor, District 15 which is all of Dodge County.

SENATOR LINDSTROM: Brett Lindstrom, District 18, northwest Omaha.

SENATOR FRIESEN: Curt Friesen, District 34, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance and part of Hall County.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Jerry Johnson, Saunders, Butler, and Colfax Counties.

SENATOR HUGHES: Dan Hughes, District 44, Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Red Willow, Furnas, Gosper and Harlan. (Laughter)

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you very much. We will let everyone know at home that you know your counties, yes. (Laughter) I still have to study up on mine once in awhile. I have ten as well. We also have a couple of pages...oh wait, before I do that, I'd like to introduce Barb Koehlmoos who is our committee clerk. And to my left is Laurie Lage, she is the legal counsel. We have two pages with us today. One is Jake Kawamoto from Omaha; he is a sophomore at UNL in political science. And Donald Earl from Lincoln; he's a political science/history major and he's a junior. And so we appreciate them being here today. Today we will discuss LB86. And to that, if you're planning on testifying, please pick up a green sheet that's on the table at the back of the room. And if you do not wish to testify but would like your named entered into the official record as being present at the hearing, there is a form on the table that you can sign. And this will be

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part of the official record of the hearing. Please fill out the sign-in sheet before you testify. Please print and it's important to complete the form in its entirety. When it's your turn to testify, please give the sign-in sheet to the committee clerk and this will help us make a more accurate public record. If you do not choose to testify, but you want to let people know that you were here and where you are on the bill, you may submit comments in writing and have them read into the official record. If you have handouts, please make sure you have 12 copies for the pages to hand out to the committee. And when you come up to testify, please speak clearly into the microphone. Tell us your name and spell your first and last name, even if it's an easy name. Please turn off all your cell phones or switch them to silent or any electronics that could possibly disrupt the committee. And please keep your conversations to a minimum as well or take them out in the hallway. We don't allow any displays of support or opposition to a bill, either vocal or otherwise, none of that is allowed in our hearings. We will use the light system in the Natural Resources Committee. You'll be given a total of five minutes to make your point to the committee. The light will start out green. When you've spoken four minutes, it will change to orange. At that point, please conclude your remarks. And when the five minutes are up, the light will change to red and you will be asked to stop. And just know that if you start and I need to stop you, it's probably because you didn't spell your name. So don't worry, but...if you don't, I will stop you so that you can do that. But, with that, we will look here and see Senator Davis is here in the room. We will invite him to the testimony table and get started with the hearing on LB86. Welcome, Senator Davis.

SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Schilz, members of the committee. I think between Senator Schilz, Senator Hughes and me we have almost half the counties in the state. So I have to give you a lot of credit, Senator Hughes, for spouting those off. I always am afraid I'm going to miss one, a little cheat sheet. (Laughter)
[LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: You don't have to confess. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: (Exhibits 1-8) Now we know. You learn all these new things from these freshmen, I tell you. So I am Al Davis, D-a-v-i-s, and I represent the 43rd Legislative District. I'm here today to introduce LB86, a reintroduction of LB494 from 2013. This bill would create a new district for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission which would become the commission's ninth district and would include the counties of Box Butte, Cherry, Dawes, Sheridan, and Sioux. A new member would be appointed to represent the new district for a term to end on January 15, 2019. The creation of a new district and appointment of a new commissioner would not impact the terms of service for any of the current members of the Game and Parks Commission. I am handing out to you a map that shows the area of public access land across the state. I'm also distributing a handout showing the number of acres of state and federal land in each of the five counties in the new district proposed in LB86. It would include about 63,000 acres owned or leased by Game and Parks, as well as 350,000 federal

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acres. This is 25 percent of all Game and Parks property in the state, and 61 percent of the federal land in Nebraska. This new district includes 94,000 acres of federal land in the Ogallala National Grasslands and Toadstool Geological Park with its peculiar geological formations which lie north and west of Crawford. It would also include the 47,000 acres of forest and butte land near Chadron, and 115,703 acres of federal forest and sandhills ground at the McKelvie National Forest south of Nenzel, Nebraska. These two parcels are operated by the U.S. Forest Service. At Valentine, there are two unique wildlife refuges which are also part of the federal system: the Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge which is made up of 19,130 acres along the Niobrara River and the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge south of Valentine which contains 71,516 acres of prairie, swamps, and lakes. The Valentine National Wildlife Refuge is a United States national landmark, as are the Nebraska Sandhills themselves which dominate most of Cherry and Sheridan Counties. The refuge and the Sandhills are two of Nebraska's five recognized natural landmarks. The new district would include one of the three national monuments which exist in Nebraska, the 3,000-acre agate fossil bed south of Harrison with its extensive collection of fossils, and the James Cook Collection which is a world-class compilation of Native American artifacts. The Hudson-Meng Bison Kill site operated by the U.S. Forest Service is situated north of Crawford and contains the bones of over 600 bison which died there 10,000 years ago. Nebraska Game and Parks operates four state parks within the region. Fort Robinson State Park is rich with the history of settlement days and was the site of the Cheyenne Indian outbreak. Fort Robinson State Park contains 22,000 acres of rugged, scenic country in northwest Nebraska. Chadron State Park hosts thousands of visitors per year in the canyon country south of town. Further east, Smith Falls State Park is situated on the Niobrara River and is the site of Nebraska's largest waterfall. And finally, Bowring State Historical Park at Merriman has 7,202 acres, making it ten times the size of the other nine historical parks combined. Game and Parks also operates a large number of state recreation areas in the district including Box Butte State Recreation Area near Alliance, Merritt State Recreation Area at Valentine, Walgren Lake State Recreation Area at Hays Springs, and Cottonwood State Recreation Area at Merriman. An additional 15 wildlife management areas are owned by Nebraska Game and Parks throughout the region and contains several thousand acres of undeveloped lakes, prairie, and swamps which are home to fish, birds, and many mammals. The Cowboy Trail, the nation's second largest trail, runs throughout this new proposed district for almost 150 miles. The old Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was deeded to the Game and Parks Commission when the railroad was decommissioned in the early 1990s. Eastern portions of the trail have been developed and there's significant local interest in Sheridan County to complete the Cowboy Trail from its origins in northeast Nebraska to Chadron and on west. I believe there is a significant potential for tourism development along the trail which would be helped by the appointment of someone from the new district where the majority of the trail is still undeveloped. More and more people are biking and hiking. The Cowboy Trail is a natural must for people who enjoy these activities. Finally, the Niobrara Scenic River lies east of Valentine in Cherry County and

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is controlled, but not owned, by the United States Park Service. Thousands of people canoe down the river each year to experience one of Nebraska's most beautiful river valleys. The unique qualities of the region also foster unique hunting experiences which are unavailable to much of the rest of Nebraska. The Pine Ridge is home to Nebraska's bighorn sheep population. There are also a number of resident elk herds in that portion of the state and in the Niobrara Valley east of Valentine. When Nebraska redeveloped its season for mountain lions, the Pine Ridge was again the epicenter of that hunting activity since it has several resident lion prides. A significant percentage of the state's antelope and mule deer population reside in this new district also. Nebraska would be well served by adding a Game and Parks commissioner to this portion of the state; someone with firsthand information about the specific communities, parks, and management areas could contribute a tremendous body of knowledge to the commission. In addition, a commissioner to focus on this unique part of our state could interface with local tourism-related industries to improve attendance at their own events and state parks. Northwest Nebraska's proximity to the Black Hills means we see a lot of tourists driving through and our tourism industry could also benefit with greater local promotion of our events and sites of interest. Most of you are probably aware that the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission had a revenue shortfall which had made it difficult for them to properly maintain some facilities. In 2013, I toured many of the state parks in my district and was shocked at the neglect and rundown condition of some of the smallest parks. Due to revenue shortfalls, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission actually closed several recreational sites earlier than usual in 2013 and northwest Nebraska residents were extremely angry and concerned when two of those parks were closed. Game and Parks listened to my concerns, and those of the residents, and did reopen the parks, but the situation might have been avoided if the region had its own commissioner to handle their complaints. District 7 Commissioner Spurgin lives in Paxton, 180 miles away from Fort Robinson State Park. How can he realistically have a good understanding of the local needs of northwest Nebraska? I believe a more local Game and Parks representative would have a better understanding of the area of both its natural features and its practical needs and would be instrumental in seeing that our parks are better maintained. I presented this same bill before the Natural Resources Committee in 2013 as LB494. At that hearing there was one testifier in opposition from the Council of Sportsmen Clubs. He was opposed to what he considered an expansion of government in adding a member to the commission. An issue was also raised in 2013 with changing the Game and Parks Commission size from its current uneven number of nine members to an even number of ten. The concern was based on an impression that an even number of members could make establishing a quorum and the voting process for the commission more difficult. I do not believe this concern is valid. Between 2002 and 2008, the Game and Parks Commission itself had eight members. We can assume that during the six-year time period the commission worked effectively. Other public bodies including several six-man school boards currently operate with even numbers. Game and Parks did not offer testimony on the bill in 2014. LB494 advanced from the Natural Resources Committee

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on a unanimous vote in March of 2013. Unfortunately, I was unable to have it brought to debate because of concerns it would be caught up in Senator Chambers' dispute with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission about developing a mountain lion season in Nebraska. Although Senator Chambers indicated to a Dawes County commissioner that he would support the bill, Speaker Adams was reluctant to bring the bill up and it was not eligible for the consent calendar since it had a small fiscal note. Accordingly, it died at the end of the 2014 session. The need for this bill has not gone away and I hope you will once again recognize the importance of increasing representation on the Game and Parks Commission for the thousands of acres of historic and treasured public land in these five northwest Nebraska counties. You should have a series of letters of support I have received for LB86. They are from the Cherry County Commissioners, the Upper Niobrara White NRD, Jake Stewart, Dawes County Commissioner; the Dawes County Board of Commissioners, and Deb Cottier, Executive Director of the Northwest Nebraska Development Corporation. I also have a note of support from Steve Erdman who is a Morrill County Commissioner. I would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you, Senator Schilz. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator Davis, for your introduction. Are there any questions for Senator Davis? Senator Friesen. [LB86]

SENATOR FRIESEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senator Davis, how did you determine which counties fit in which district? I mean, I noticed there's some of the districts here have a lot of counties. Is it by territory? Did you go by acres or just what's convenient? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: I think you probably need to ask Game and Parks how that was established. I'm sure it was part of a legislative process and some of it, I'm sure, represents population location. If you look at the map, you can see that...just like much of rural Nebraska, the western part of the state is lacking in representation or we have more acres under our one commissioner than the eastern counties. I'm guessing there is some population link to it. [LB86]

SENATOR FRIESEN: Okay. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: I think this bill needs to go forward, though, because that population link doesn't really deal with recognizing the fact that that is where a vast majority of the public land is. And it would benefit tremendously by having someone there who could look out for it and speak up for it at the commission. [LB86]

SENATOR FRIESEN: Yeah. I was just curious of how they ever set the boundaries or...a lot of them are set by population, but here it's more territory the way it looks to me, but just curious. [LB86]

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SENATOR DAVIS: You might have a chance to ask that question in a minute. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thanks, Senator Friesen. Senator Johnson. [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Schilz. Thank you, Senator Davis, for bringing it again. I don't recall all of the discussion, but the ninth member at-large...I'm not sure what territory there is, I mean it's at-large, so was there any consideration to eliminate the at-large and utilize the ninth one as a district director with a certain territory? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: Well, I would certainly not be opposed to that if the Natural Resources Committee wanted to do that. We didn't consider that. I did...I was approached with that idea and I thought that might cause more problems or more friction than putting another member on. [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yeah, just curious; I don't remember that much of a discussion on it before. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: Right, and I think that ninth commission was added in 2008 and I suppose we could go back and look up and see what was said at the time. [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Any other questions for Senator Davis? Senator Schnoor. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: Senator Davis, if you could explain for my benefit at least the commissioners of all the districts, is that a paid position? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: No, I think there is reimbursement for travel expenses. Again, you'll probably have an opportunity to ask Game and Parks, but I believe it's...there may be a small per diem. I can't answer the question. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: Okay. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: The fiscal note that we had from two years ago, basically, dealt more with transportation than anything else. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: In that...well, that kind of leads into my second part: the fiscal note is a...what are we at--six...\$5,214, is that correct? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: Um-hum. [LB86]

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SENATOR SCHNOOR: And I guess...what is that based on? Not that that's a lot of money... [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: That's the mystery of the Fiscal Office which you will find out about, Senator Schnoor. (Laughter) But I think what they do is they determine how many trips they have to make to meetings, how far it is, and sort of a rough estimate of what the cost, you know, putting them up in a motel and all the things that are a part of coming to a public meeting and attending. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: Okay. All right. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator Schnoor. Senator McCollister. [LB86]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: Thank you, Senator. The underlying assumption here is that area is underserved; can you elaborate a little bit on why it's underserved? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: On why it's underserved? [LB86]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: Yeah. The motivation for the bill. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: Well, I think if you've got a significant portion of the recreational land in the state and you've got people that are 150 or 200 miles away from that particular area, you're not really representing that district. And I think that...I really think that Game and Parks would really benefit by having someone who lived in that area of the state and could speak up for the needs that are there. So...and to get back to this, and I made reference to it earlier, when we were going through the issues with the budgeting for Game and Parks, and I toured some of the recreation areas, I was really shocked at the poor condition they were in which is an indication of lack of resources, obviously, but I would say, probably, if a commissioner was living in that part of the state and driven around and looked at some of those recreation areas he would have said to Mr. Douglas--boy, we need to really do something with these because, you know, it doesn't make the commission look good. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator McCollister. Any other...Senator Kolowski. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senator Davis, from the map that we have in our booklet, the ninth district is the at-large at the current time, is that correct? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: No, the...yes, the ninth district is the at-large district. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Ninth. And your division that you'd like to have happen in...out

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in seven then, would take in Cherry County and then the upper part of the seven, is that what we're...? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: I'm not looking at the map, Senator Kolowski. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: We don't have a good map of where that breaks down. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: Cherry County is in the commissioner's district who lives in Custer County which is near Broken Bow. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: District five then. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: And then the other four counties are in Mark Spurgin's district. Mark lives in Paxton, Nebraska. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: And they will be more of the northern band of counties there? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: Right. Will be the Panhandle and...well, basically, the Panhandle and then Cherry County, those are the five counties. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Okay. And so that would be the new... [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: I shouldn't say the Panhandle. I should say the northern part of the Panhandle. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Northern part, okay. That would be the new...what number then if you were successful with this bill? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: That would be number ten. Or, I guess that would be number nine and the at-large person would be the tenth. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Then nine would move to ten and (inaudible). I'm even asking...when I asked the question of--would two at-large be better and divide the state down the middle so they'd have sort of an east and west zone or divide it north and south. Is there need for even more representation in the balance of some things? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: You know, I certainly wouldn't be opposed to that. I think the more people that you...this is a big business we're talking about and I think the more good representation you can get and balance across the state geographically, the better off things are going to be. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Well, we have 11-member NRDs, like the Papio. [LB86]

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SENATOR DAVIS: Right. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: And others might have a few more, but 11 is not out of range for a whole state the size of Nebraska. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: No. No, if the committee felt that was a way to go I'd... [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: And it's a very small fiscal note to pick up the tab for that additional person to try to do the things as the Governor has talked about as far as tourism and assisting with all the things we'd like to have more examples of people being involved in our state. I mean, just throw that on the table, possibilities. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: And Game and Parks, I will tell you, has been very proactive in working with the tourist organizations that exist in this part of the state. I just think this other commissioner could really take that another step farther. We've got a tremendous amount of potential in Nebraska that is really undeveloped as a destination. And our parks are an intimate part of that. And our hunting experiences, another commissioner would promote that. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator Kolowski. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you for your opening. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Senator Schilz. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Will you stay around to close or...? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: I'll stay to close. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Okay, thank you. At this time we will take proponents for the bill, proponents for LB86. Mr. Pollock, good afternoon. [LB86]

ANDY POLLOCK: Thank you very much, Senator Schilz. Chairman Schilz and members of the Natural Resources Committee, my name is Andy Pollock, that's A-n-d-y P-o-l-l-o-c-k. I am here as registered lobbyist appearing on behalf of the Nebraska Travel Association. It's an association of private and public members from all across the state of Nebraska. And their chief interest is promoting tourism, our third largest industry, and travel within the state of Nebraska and I should say into the state of Nebraska too. We're here in strong support of Senator Davis' bill, LB86, as we were two years ago when he introduced the predecessor legislation for many of the same reasons. Travel and tourism are, like I said, the third largest industry in the state.

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They're critical to the state's economy. I would say they're especially critical out west. The group I represent includes people in western Nebraska; it includes people in Lincoln and Omaha. So we're certainly not exclusive to the western or rural part of the state, but we understand the importance of tourism to western Nebraska. We appear here, not to criticize in any way our Game and Parks Commission. They do a fantastic job. I say that as a paid lobbyist, but I also say it as a father of four kids and I've tried to take our kids camping and participating in other forms of recreation in a number of the state parks. And we'll spend some time at Fort Robinson this summer; we're looking forward to that. They're a treasure, but they are also a huge important draw to tourists, both from within the state and outside the state. And we just believe that another voice on the Game and Parks Commission will be important to making sure that the interests of rural Nebraska are heard on the commission, again, without critiquing anything that they're doing in particular now. I think Senator Davis did an excellent job of telling you about some of the treasures out west. And again, those are treasures not only in terms of natural resources, but in terms of tourism draws as well. We think that this bill is a good idea also because it really doesn't dilute the voice of any other area of Nebraska. While it would increase and enhance the voice of those in some counties out west, it doesn't dilute the voice of those here in eastern Nebraska. And I think that's an important element too. And it's important to our group because we do represent people from all across the state. Just inside, I talked to Senator Davis a little bit about this bill and told him I'd be here today. He asked me to make a specific comment on the Cowboy Trail. I had the great pleasure, you might call it, of running the finished portion of the Cowboy Trail, about 195 miles. I wimped out after a hundred miles. My running buddy continued on. But we started in Valentine and finished in Norfolk after a week of running...or he did. I tried to get Senator Schilz to join us in that endeavor and he respectfully declined. But it was...you know, you're looking at a great treasure up there. And like Senator Davis said, it is unfinished. The section from Chadron to Valentine is unfinished. And I would submit to you that there's great potential in that...in that trail. It needs to be finished; it needs to be promoted. And I think this step...this legislative bill would be a step in the right direction in that way. I'd be glad to answer any questions. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Mr. Pollock. Any questions for Mr. Pollock? Senator Kolowski. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Just more of a statement if I may. I had a bike bill the other day and I talked about the Cowboy Trail, as far as the lure for tourism that we haven't touched yet in this state. [LB86]

ANDY POLLOCK: Sure. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: I hope it has meaning and possibilities for the future. Thank you. [LB86]

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ANDY POLLOCK: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you, Mr. Pollock, for your testimony. [LB86]

ANDY POLLOCK: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Next proponent. Good afternoon, sir, and welcome. [LB86]

STACY SWINNEY: (Exhibit 9) Good afternoon. Thank you. Senator Schilz and committee, I'm pleased to be here today. My name is Stacy Swinney, it's S-t-a-c-y S-w-i-n-n-e-y. I am from Dawes County, Nebraska, near Chadron, and I'm here today to speak in support of LB86. I testified in support of it two years ago and we're back with it. I'm representing five counties here today and the citizens and landowners in those counties. I also would like to be recognized for speaking on behalf of our wildlife and natural resources. We're blessed in our area with almost countless outdoor activities, the scenic beauty and amazing history. Our area which we call our community is the northern counties of the Panhandle. And we have county lines, but a lot of times they seem to disappear. We are in a trade area. Our area is as far west as the Wyoming line and as far east as Valentine. Four years ago, we formed the Dawes County Joint Planning Committee and one of the particular concerns of that planning committee was communicated to us and it was the need for enhanced opportunity for communication with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in development or community or a common interest. We didn't realize that the locations of the commissioners. Now if you look at the map of Nebraska, the nearest commissioner to our area is Paxton. And the nearest commissioner to the east is in Broken Bow. Five of the nine commissioners are within an hour or so of Omaha. We don't have a problem with that, but we're a long ways geographically and logistically from any of the people that make the decisions that affect our area. Currently, we are in Game and Parks District 7 which is all the Panhandle counties plus Keith County. The geography represented in this district is nearly one-fourth the land mass of the state. It includes diverse land uses and would be much more effectively represented if it were split into two districts. And Cherry County, much more similar in land base and economy to District 7 than it is to District 6 where it is currently located. Currently, the commissioner for our district lives in Paxton, approximately 200 miles from Chadron. Cherry County's Game and Parks Commissioner lives in Broken Bow, approximately 150 miles from the center of that county. The proposed district would be home to many Game and Parks most valued attractions and resources including Fort Robinson State Park, Chadron State Park, Box Butte and Box Butte Reservoir, Bowring State Historical Park, Merritt Reservoir, Smith Falls, Walgren Lake, Cottonwood Lake, Big Alkali, a large portion of the Cowboy Trail, Metcalf, Gilbert, and Ponderosa Wildlife Management Areas and others including about 200 miles of the Niobrara River. In the past four years, I have been a member of the

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Dawes County Board of Commissioners and we have put an emphasis on the tourism in our area since the wildfires a couple of years ago. And as a member of the tourism board, representing the commissioners on the tourism board, we, in this last year, have raised our tourism lodging tax from 2 percent to 4 percent. We made several advancements in promoting tourism in our area. And we've been in a lot of...almost, I wouldn't say constant contact, but very supportive contact with Game and Parks Commission. We increased our board...our tourism board from five to seven members. And one of the members that we put on the tourism board two years ago is a staff member of Game and Parks, one that publish photographers and authors and he's done a real good job for us in helping to promote tourism in our area. In order to better communicate and partner with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission we agree that commissioner representation closer than 200 miles away would be beneficial both to the commission, and the residents of the affected region. Serious issues recently, wildfires, species decimation, drought, and policy issues including mountain lions have been the need for a close-working relationship with Game and Parks Commission, its staff, and commissioner representation. We support this effort to equalize the state's division of districts, making the important job of the commissioners more effective. This is not an attempt to take anything away from any program or the commission. This is only an attempt to put a voice on the commission from our area. This is an honest, straightforward request and there's no downside to it. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Sir, if you could finish up your comments, we would appreciate that. The red light is on. Thank you, sir. [LB86]

STACY SWINNEY: Appreciate this opportunity to speak and thank Senator Davis for his support and guidance in the process. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Very good. Thank you very much for your testimony. Any questions for Mr. Swinney? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. We very much appreciate it. [LB86]

STACY SWINNEY: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: (Exhibit 10) Other proponents? Proponents of LB86? Seeing none, any opponents? Oh wait, let me do this real quick, before the opponents come up, if there are any. We have letters of support from Patrick O'Brien from the Upper Niobrara White NRD; Deb Cottier from the Nebraska Northwest Development Corporation; Mark Adamson from the Cherry County Commission; Jake Stewart, Webb Johnson and Valentin Rivera from the Dawes County Commission; and Michael Murphy from the Middle Niobrara NRD. So those will all be entered into the record. And now we'll move to opposition. Any opponents? Good afternoon, Mr. Forney, welcome. [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: (Exhibit 11) I'm Kent Forney. I'm president of the Game and Parks

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Commission. It's K-e-n-t F-o-r-n-e-y. Wow, that was really interesting and good information about District 7; very proud of District 7. I grew up south of Rushville. I frequently go out there, including next week I'm going out there. Commissioner Berggren and I spent a lot of Christmas with Jim Douglas out there. When we look at these maps as they're divided up, a lot of good points about the Cowboy Trail. I want to refresh you, though, that it's not lack of representation. We all know that that Cowboy Trail needs to be fixed. I've been working really hard with Ross Elwood and the commission out of Rushville where I went to high school trying to get the Cowboy Trail developed. The Legislature gave us that Cowboy Trail and has never funded it...hint, hint, please fund it. If you look at the districts, I always call it "God's Country" when I take people out to my ranch in District 7. I always stop at North Platte and have them wipe their feet because we're heading into "God's Country." And I truly believe that. But more representation and more government is not always the solution. And that's not the solution here. These districts have been well defined. District 6 has more acres; District 8 has more people; District 2 has more people; District 1 has more parks, if you look at the size of the parks, if you look at Mahoney, Schramm. So we open this can of worms and where does it start? Are we going to start chopping up District 8, 2, 1 also? Are we going to chop up District 8? If your representative, who is Mark Spurgin, and...you're assuming that he hasn't been in that district, that he just stays in Paxton. He has never missed a public meeting in that entire district. He is always there. You're talking about Walgren Lake; he's been...we've had a lot of pictures on that at the commission. We're working our tail off on it. It's not more people on the board, a lot of it is funding. Yeah, I'm sorry that we had to close some parks. It wasn't that we didn't...that another commissioner was going to keep a park open. Quite the contrary, let's get some more money and so that we can do this. We've got to...these park stickers and we've got to...it's funding, it's not representation that is affecting our board. You also...the way to do it is if Mr. Swinney wants on the board, and I would welcome him, but when Spurgin's term is up, apply for the position. Ask for the Governor to appoint you. Right now we have Rex Fisher, the director at-large, and he is from Omaha--the largest population. If you want more representation, lobby for having that district at-large come from District 7. Dividing it up and more people and making this board bigger and all that is not going to help one bit on what we're doing out there. I don't have a lot more to say. I just would hope that you would take a real strong look at this. We've worked very hard on this. This has been changed since I've been on the board on how long you can serve, etcetera. And Jim Douglas will be going over that more with you. So if I have any time left over, I'd like to yield it to Jim Douglas. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Well Senator, Dr. Forney, thank you very much for your testimony. You can yield it all you want, but everybody gets five minutes unless we ask some questions. (Laughter) [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: Well, maybe I should keep talking. Does anybody have questions? [LB86]

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SENATOR SCHILZ: Don't get up and leave yet. [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: Because I'm going to tell you, it's been a big honor to serve on this Game and Parks. And like I said, I grew up south of Rushville; I'm going out. I'm leaving Tuesday. And I'm going to be in that district the whole week until Sunday. We went to the Fort Rob Christmas party with Jim Douglas and Lynn Berggren like I said. Mark is up there a lot and he brings a lot to the commission. I think it's a little unfair to say that he is not getting around and seeing those parks and making recommendations. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Dr. Forney. Any questions? Senator Johnson. [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Forney, for coming in. I guess going back to my original question, so they...is the at-large person...whoever wants to come forward, wherever they live, that's...I mean they...in this case, it represents Omaha. [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: He doesn't represent Omaha. [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: I mean, he's at-large, but lives in Omaha. [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: He lives in Omaha, but he's all over. [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: And if you don't want...I mean, that's the largest population. So are we going to divide Omaha up into three districts by population? [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: No. Okay. Let me go back to my original question. Would you have a problem if the proposed additional district was a person and we got rid of the at-large? [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: I think the at-large...I think Rex Fisher has a lot to offer. He gets around... [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: I'm not talking about the person. [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: No, I know. But his... [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: I'm talking about the geographic again. [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: Yeah, I do. I wouldn't do it that way. I'd leave it at-large on that. [LB86]

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SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: I would also like to say, I have a cabin at McConaughy so...I have a ranch in District 7 and I have a cabin in 7. There's a lot of crop representation on this. It's not just one district and you only say things about your place when you're on the commission, just like you guys don't just serve just your district, you serve the entire state. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Any other questions for Dr. Forney? Senator Kolowski. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Doctor, would you be opposed to two at-large to make it 11, to have an odd number? [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: I don't know what you're gaining by it. I mean, you're...throwing more people isn't the problem, it's financial. I think more representation...I think you're well represented. I think you don't know it. Sorry, no offense, but I think Spurgin is doing a good job out there. I think the answer to your question is if you want more representation and you don't want them to live in Paxton, then when Spurgin's term is up, you try and get someone from Chadron, if that's where you want them appointed from. I mean, that's where you make your thing. And if you want the at-large, then go after the at-large. But it's going to vary a lot on what's going on through the state. I know right now that the mountain lion issue is a huge debate and it's drawing attention to the Pine Ridge, but there's a lot of other things...I mean, when you look at the elephant in the room, you got to look at Mahoney Park, Schramm Park, Platte River, Twin Rivers, and that's not a big district. But you talk about natural resources, so if you're going to divide up District 7, then the next year you're going to divide up District 1 because someone from there is going to say, well, we need more representation. And the truth of the matter is, guys, we live in the best state in the nation. We really do and I'm really proud of this Game and Parks. And I'm not just saying that. The Game and Parks, Jim Douglas, etcetera, the group, we get the honor of going to these national meetings and they always comment, well, we're going to do it like Nebraska does it. And it gives me goose bumps. I mean, they're always coming to us seeing how we're doing it. I mean, you go to that Platte River shooting gallery, etcetera, I mean, we're the ones that are leading; we aren't following. And I think just more government isn't the answer. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Well, I think a miniscule cost of adding one person to give us two at-large in the state... [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: I don't think it will stop there. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: ...doesn't seem like (inaudible). Pardon. [LB86]

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KENT FORNEY: I don't think it will stop there. I think you're opening a can of worms that's going to spread. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Well, we disagree. [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: Okay. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Hold on, Dr. Forney. Any other questions? I have just one. And I don't want to put you on the spot if you don't know, but I'll ask it and maybe if you don't know, maybe Commissioner Douglas or somebody else will. But as I look at the districts as they're lined out here, District 1 is down south, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8...when did District 8 come into being and how did that happen? [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: That's a Jim Douglas question. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Okay. That's fine. And I'll just throw it out there. So I appreciate it. So there's no other questions, thank you, sir, for your testimony. We appreciate it. [LB86]

KENT FORNEY: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Have a good day. Next opponent. Director Douglas, good afternoon. [LB86]

JIM DOUGLAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Natural Resources Committee. My name is Jim Douglas, J-i-m D-o-u-g-l-a-s. I'm the director of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission headquartered at 2200 North 33rd Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am echoing the position that our Game and Parks commissioners have taken on this bill and in opposition to LB86. I'll be happy to answer questions at the end and I've heard some that I know that I can address. But just in starting, I wanted to make a couple of points. One point is that I think that you can draw lines in the state of Nebraska with its great landscape and our great park system and you can carve out places anywhere in the state and describe fantastic natural landscapes, fantastic parks and we're very, very blessed that that's the case. The fact is that our commissioners currently, in my opinion, are doing a very good job of representing the citizens of the state. And I think it's important to note that, as Dr. Forney indicated, the commissioners really do work together as a unit in looking at all the issues of the state and contribute their ideas and their thoughts, their experiences, their great business backgrounds just seeking solutions for all of those things that are presented before us, regardless of which part of the state it is in. The commission meets regularly six times a year. And up until a point in time, about 15 years ago, it was required by state law that they meet in Lincoln. That law was changed with our support and they now have one commission meeting a year

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in Lincoln and five somewhere else in the state in trying to rotate and touch all those different districts that they can touch. We have had two commission meetings in the district proposed by the senator in the last two years. We met in Valentine and we met in Chadron. We made a special effort to meet in Chadron to discuss the potential mountain lion season, for example. We've had three Niobrara meetings in that area. We've had three big game meetings. We had one meeting specific to Walgren Lake; two specific to public meetings and public hearings regarding potential land purchases. Actually, three of those. And other meetings that were attended by staff that all of these meetings were attended by commissioners. And most often in those meetings, even that aren't commission meetings, more than one commissioner attends. This is a very attentive group of people. It's the kind of commission that you want to have. And I think because of that, I think it's less important to add additional commissioners to the mix. The other thing is that I'd like to point out is that most of the public contact that occurs, occurs with staff because no matter which of these districts you would pick out, depending upon where...which county the commissioner is from, yeah, there is quite a distance between one end of the district and the other. There would be quite a distance between one end of the district and another of a new district that's being proposed if the person happened to live on one end of it. So most of the...there's a lot of contact by telephone with constituents, but we have a bevy of public meetings that we do purposely around the state to get public input. And our commission is very much open to that public input and seeks it. In addition to that, we do professionally done surveys about particular issues that are going on in the state. And so we reach out to the public in many ways. About half of our commissioners now do blogs where they go around, experience things in the state, and blog about it. Additionally, we are...we now have the capability, just recently, to do videoconferencing from our headquarters in Lincoln or from any site in the state. All of our commission meetings in the future, if we have Wi-Fi connections, will be able to be broadcast to all the citizens at a public library or something like that. So I don't...there's a lot of special places in Nebraska. You could draw this up in many ways. I see the red light. I'd be happy to answer questions about the history of the commission that were asked earlier. Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Director Douglas. Any questions for Director Douglas? [LB86]

SENATOR FRIESEN: Yes, Director. I was just curious of how the districts were ever formed back...you had some history there of how they were...what criteria was used to... [LB86]

JIM DOUGLAS: Well, prior to 2002, the districts were set...the boundaries of the districts were set primarily on trying to provide some equal geographic area with a little bit of representation by population thrown in. And then starting in 2002, there was some changes made because there was a lot of concern expressed by different persons that there should be more representation where the population lies. So starting in 2002,

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there was some attempt to equalize that. Additionally in 2002, the eighth commissioner was added at that point in time. In 2008, the at-large commissioner was added. I think, you know, without knowing the whole record of testimony, but I think partially to address...what's being...what's talked about now is how do you also...you know, do you divide up every other district three ways and have 20 commissioner? The at-large commissioner was an attempt to have another commissioner who could come from anywhere in the state and would rotate from anywhere in the state over time. [LB86]

SENATOR FRIESEN: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator Friesen. Senator Johnson. [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: So is there a...if the northwest district area wanted to campaign for that at-large position, you commented that there could be a rotation of that. What chance...you can't answer this exact...what chance would they have of getting that moved over there based on your concern and your desire that there's probably needed another one in the eastern quadrant...or the eastern part of the state? It's appointed by the Governor... [LB86]

JIM DOUGLAS: Well, there's two districts that essentially are just a county which were...or excuse me, one that's just a county that...two that are just a county that are intended to sort of address that eastern population thing. That's been addressed by that...in that way in the past so that the at-large commissioner was not chosen to be from where he's from to address the eastern part of the state. He was chosen for his great background and his ability to work for all the citizens of the state. He happens to be located in the east, but he could...another person could be chosen who is located in the west. They could...the Governor is the one that makes those appointments and you confirm them. So, he could decide, well, we should have one in the middle. I mean... [LB86]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yeah, okay. Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Senator McCollister. [LB86]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: Do your positions here represents the board? Has there been a poll of the board members to know the... [LB86]

JIM DOUGLAS: My positions do represent every one of our board members. [LB86]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I see. Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator McCollister. Senator Hughes. [LB86]

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SENATOR HUGHES: Director Douglas, when you were here the other day, you said you had been with the commission for quite some time and director for a while. Realizing that every board personality is different, could you give us some insight as to how the board prioritizes the spending? Do they...as commissioners, come to the board with ideas or do you have staff kind of generate those ideas and the board pares them down. Just kind of...how this board has worked say in the last...generally. [LB86]

JIM DOUGLAS: This board wants to be sure that all the members of the board are fully informed on all issues. We have...when we have a commission meeting, as I talked about, it's either preceded or followed by a half day or a day of staff presentations to the board. I mean, we colloquially call them information meetings, we do staff briefings. The commission has committees. So there's a financial committee for example. And so, staff will work with, for example in your question, with that financial committee, but then eventually that information and suggestions will be brought to the full board. The full board is...the governance of the commission is such that there's really good interaction between staff and the commission. So, we commissions all have a "kick at the dog" on the financial. [LB86]

SENATOR HUGHES: What other committees...and the committees are made up of staff or commissioners? [LB86]

JIM DOUGLAS: The committees are made up of commissioners. Okay. [LB86]

SENATOR HUGHES: Okay. What other committees are there other than financial? [LB86]

JIM DOUGLAS: There's a fish and wildlife committee; there's a parks and trails committee. Each chairman decides which committees that will exist. Currently, there's those committees plus an executive committee. [LB86]

SENATOR HUGHES: Okay. Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator Hughes. Any other questions for Director Douglas? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony, appreciate it. [LB86]

JIM DOUGLAS: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Have a good day. Any other opponents? Opponents? Seeing none, do we have any neutral testimony? Mr. Smathers, welcome. Good afternoon. [LB86]

SCOTT SMATHERS: Good afternoon, Chairman Schilz, members of the Natural Resources Committee. My name is Scott Smathers, S-c-o-t-t S-m-a-t-h-e-r-s. I am

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executive director of the Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation. We are a 501(c)(3) membership-driven organization in the state, started in 2002. We stand in the neutral position today on Senator Davis' legislation. I think it's important to understand how we arrive at our decisions when we either support or defend against a legislative bill or stand neutral. Our current membership base is driven by two different factors. One is a individual membership which we total just over 4,000 members statewide in the state. Then we have an affiliation membership that comes through partnerships through Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, etcetera, etcetera. With that number we are totaling close to the 9,000-member mark in the state. We also govern by a nine-person executive board and a six-person advisory board. And as of this year, 2015, we now have a six-person legislative council that is made up of our partners and our sponsors. When we review legislation, we pick a third randomly through a computer program of our membership base. They are asked their particular position on an issue. They respond back to us. Then our executive board reviews those responses and they weigh in on their decisions as a board member as to which direction they feel we should move as an organization. Ultimately at the end of the day, it is my decision if we have a tie vote as executive director. That is the exact case with this particular legislation. We have about a 45 percent/45 percent equal concern on this issue. My board was split four and four and we have one that abstained due to relationships with a commissioner. And I have reviewed this issue. And as the Sportsmen's Foundation reviews, as a membership-driven organization on sportsmen's issues in the state and for the senior senators they have seen our organization and myself around quite a bit. We do not disagree with Senator Davis or the residents of that area at the beautiful, scenic and natural resources and wildlife opportunities exist. We also work hand-in-hand with the Game and Parks on a tremendous amount of issues with our sportsmen delivering messages of their mission to our sportsmen so there is a better understanding. At the end of the day, our final decision bared down to the fact of adding another individual under the pretense of the bill that it would boost economic and tourism value, yes, that is one part that would boost economic and tourism value which we are complete behind, 100 percent. However, that is one component of many components, as you've heard from Commissioner Forney, funding. You put another person in a position without advance funding issues, we've created another chair, another mouth to feed, another mileage to pay. And I don't know that...from what we've heard from our constituents in the district area that is being considered, they do not feel that they're underserved. That's where we stand as a neutral position. I can answer any questions if anybody has any. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Mr. Smathers. Any questions? Senator McCollister. [LB86]

SENATOR MCCOLLISTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for appearing. [LB86]

SCOTT SMATHERS: Thank you. [LB86]

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER: In your expert opinion, has the northwest area of the state been underfunded or underrepresented in any kind of way? [LB86]

SCOTT SMATHERS: I think those are two different issues, Senator. I do not believe they've been underrepresented. I know that my travels, as my role, and also my involvement with water in the state takes me across this great state on many occasions. I spent a tremendous amount of time in Chadron. And I think they're well served by the Nebraska Game and Parks. If there is some concerns in regards to a commissioner be of distance wise, I think, again, if you add another chair you simply add...when do we stop? And then the folks in northwest Omaha want more representation, or southwest Lincoln, or Gage County. As far as funding, categorically, I'll agree that we're underfunded dramatically for tourism in our state, economic development and wildlife issues. [LB86]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Senator Schnoor. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: I didn't catch at the beginning...who you represent? [LB86]

SCOTT SMATHERS: The Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation. We're a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that was formed in 2002 in the state. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: Okay. Thank you. [LB86]

SCOTT SMATHERS: Yes. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator Schnoor. Any other questions for Mr. Smathers? If not, thank you for your testimony, appreciate it. [LB86]

SCOTT SMATHERS: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Any other neutral testimony? Neutral? Seeing none, Senator Davis, you're welcome to close if you'd like. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you, Senator Schilz. First of all, I want to address something that I will have to tell you really made me angry and that was when Dr. Forney implied that this was all about putting Mr. Swinney on the board, that that was what Mr. Swinney's objective was. That's absolutely not true. And it's a slap in the face to Mr. Swinney and I would expect Dr. Forney to apologize to him for that. So I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the things you heard, specifically we'll start with the Cowboy Trail, which is a large undeveloped piece of property through that area. Two years ago, I was

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approached by people in Sheridan County and Gordon specifically, I had a young woman who was about run over on the highway, to try to do something with the trail. And I will say, Game and Parks was very cooperative with that and we tried to deed that over to the county or lease that to them. There were some reasons they couldn't do that. And Dr. Forney has been helpful in trying to get the trail completed. It is a great...I do think it is a great asset for us and we need to fund it if there is a way we can do that. So I'm not trying to cast aspersions on Mr. Spurgin, who I very much respect and very much like. But the conditions at Walgren Lake State Park when I went there were rather appalling. And I contacted Mark and I said--have you been up here, do you know what this is like? And he said--well, I really haven't had time to get up there, it's a long way. And it is a long way. And that's why this is an important issue. The last thing I'm going to say is Mr. Douglas said that the commission has voted or has made a decision about this bill that this is not good policy. I'd like to know when that public meeting took place and when that vote took place. I haven't seen that or heard about it until today. So with that said, I think this is a good bill and a good proposal. Yes, it's somewhat done on the basis of population in the state of Nebraska. But what does the Game and Parks represent? It doesn't just represent people. It represents the land, the natural resources, the wildlife that's out there. That's what this is all about. It isn't just about people. It's also about looking out for the animals and the terrain and the property that they have. I've explained to you why there's such a vast amount of the real estate in this quadrant that is state land or federal land. I think we would benefit tremendously by having a representative from that district and a \$6,000 fiscal note is chicken feed in the whole picture. Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator Davis. Any questions...any final questions for the senator. Senator Kolowski. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Senator Davis, from the eastern border of Cherry County over to the Wyoming border, how far is that about? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: You're really going to tax me. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Two hundred miles? [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: Yes, 200 miles or more. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: That's my guess, just looking at the state. How many times I've driven across. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: It's 60 from Merriman to Valentine, then it's another 35, and then it would be 30 and 50 and 50, so maybe more than that, 250 maybe. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Okay. And then north/south, it looks like it's about... [LB86]

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SENATOR DAVIS: One hundred and eighty, 200 miles. [LB86]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Thank you, Senator Kolowski. Any other questions? Seeing none, Senator Davis, thank you for introducing your bill today. [LB86]

SENATOR DAVIS: Thank you. [LB86]

SENATOR SCHILZ: And with that we will end our hearing on LB86 and our hearings for the day. Do we have a motion to go into Exec Session? [LB86]