

blighted and substandard, and that definition would be or could be defined more clearly by this Legislature. And Senator DeCamp's concerns are just highly unlikely. I want to explain a little bit about some of the conditions that exist in areas of town that these proposals are aimed at, and those conditions are...and I think the present language in the law, in the community re-development law, kind of specifies it, but the conditions are areas of town that have substantial vacant lots. The land values are substantially below comparable market values in other parts of the community...where we had a bill earlier this year to deal with the LRA, the Land Reutilization Authority which in Omaha has the authority of trying to...has the responsibility of trying to get land that nobody basically wants, that people have abandoned. It is a highly unusual situation but it is a fact in our large urban areas, people have just walked away from land and land sometimes with dwellings on them, and they have walked away from this land because it is not marketable, it is not feasible to operate, it is not feasible to fix up, etcetera, and it is for those areas that we are trying to provide some mechanisms to redevelop. I want to remind people that what is happening nationally is that we are seeing aid to cities, we are seeing cutbacks in programs that used to try to fund and assist cities in redevelopment efforts in these areas. We are seeing that cut back. The philosophy that we face today is if private enterprise does not do it, it probably isn't going to get done. That is why we need these proposals. That is why we need these mechanisms. If private enterprise does not do it, it won't get done. And if it doesn't get done, basically we are saying to large segments of our population, the very poor, those who need work and jobs, we are saying to them that there is no chance. Now, frankly, we have in our society a free enterprise system and that free enterprise system that Senator Beutler is most concerned about is the free enterprise system that basically distributes the goods and services, the wealth of this great nation based on employment, on work, and those kinds of factors. It does not provide great financial assistance...great financial subsistence, only subsistence level to the very poor in our society. And what these proposals do is gives them at least an opportunity, an opportunity for hope, for faith, for a chance to become a productive member of society. If you deny them that, if they are denied that, and remember the federal government is not doing much in this regard anymore, it is getting out of this area, and so private enterprise must get into it, and if you deny them that