

the phone, I just want to say this, that it is a travesty to enact into law a bill which does not require full compliance. I can understand the problems of the cities and I can understand the problems of their jurisdictions but I am totally opposed to any bill which will allow those islands to exist within the state where enough of the noxious weed seed can be generated to totally inundate the entire state while at the same time we provide swift and severe penalties for those farmers and ranchers who do not control the weed. I am in favor of the farmer and rancher controlling the weed but I can tell you, very honestly, and all of us know that the City of Omaha has a tremendous problem. I'm not sure how they are going to do it, but I believe it must be controlled if we're going to do it. It makes no sense to allow the wasteland, to allow the area along certain right-of-ways, to allow the State of Nebraska to ignore the problem and not to make them live up to the law. I want to remind this body it's been a number of years ago the Game and Parks had a difficult problem controlling musk thistle. They made it their priority to do so and they did so and today Game and Parks, to my knowledge, as much as I've been around those areas, do not have a musk thistle problem. I don't know how they did it. You might ask them. But if they can do it, then other jurisdictions can do it also. And I want to point out that Senator Elmer will not have a bill if we do not require the cities and counties to comply with the law. And I would suggest that if you exempt them from the law, that you do not have a constitutional bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. To reiterate what the amendment does, all it does is change the permissive language of the cities may provide for noxious weed control to the cities shall provide for noxious weed control within their jurisdictions. That's all this amendment does. I see that there should be no real objection to that, knowing that it's the responsibility of every citizen in this state to make agriculture a better economic base by restricting and getting rid of these terrible problems. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Further discussion on the amendment? Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, could I ask Senator Schmit a question, please?