

members of the Board of Commissioners of Douglas County, and I just would like, in case you haven't read your mail, and I know that sometimes it takes days before you get through your mail, but he made some very good points. He says here, "Unlike the City of Omaha, in addition to the county board, Douglas County has seven elected officials responsible for seven different departments. We elect, at large, the Clerk of the District Court, the Registrar of Deeds, the County Clerk, the County Assessor, the County Attorney, the County Treasurer and the Public Defender...County Public Defender." So you can see by the amount of people that we elect in Douglas County that the five Douglas County Board members now are more or less administrators. He goes on to say, "In a short time I have been elected on the board I have worked with the other commissioners in a cohesive and collective environment to solve the problems for all citizens of Douglas County." And that brings to mind when I stood here and fought the district elections for the City Council. At that time I was also battling compost sites in south Omaha and also rendering plants. And I found out that when you're battling something like that, or whether it's a landfill, and I know there will be talk on landfills also, that you only have one representative that will fight for you on the city council. It would be the same way with the Douglas County Board of Commissioners. I would much rather prefer to vote for all five county commissioners rather than just one. They would be accountable to my vote when it comes to having a landfill, a compost site, or a rendering plant in my area of the city. It is...Howard Buffett goes on to say, "It is my belief, in the short time I've been there, that it's far better to have five county commissioners who are interested in all of the problems facing Douglas County as a whole than to have seven County Commissioners, which LB 588 provides for, who may be thinking only of one geographical subdivision of the county. It is noble to say that each official represents the county, but it is human nature and the nature of the district representation to be obligated to the district's interests first." And I believe that each and every one of us will say that we are a prime example because I would not stand here as a state senator representing District 5 and vote for anything that would harm my district. And I think we all have the same idea when it comes to voting on any particular bill. I urge you to adopt the amendment. We do not need seven county commissioners in Douglas County, five is more than enough. I believe that as I stated before the five county commissioners would be nominated by district and then elected at large. Lancaster County and