

Senator Withem almost made me do some reconsideration when he did all of that Chamber of Commerce spiel but we know that he's got to mend his fences at home, so I will overlook that and give my 100 percent support to his amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Beyer, followed by Senator Lynch.

SENATOR BEYER: Well, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I guess this is one time I will go against my colleagues in the county. Based on the fact of a little explanation of what is there and why I would have to oppose it. Sarpy County is unique in that half of the county, populationwise, is located or four-fifths of the population is located in half of the county, and the other half of the county has one-fifth of the population. So, currently, we have a lot of problem in my particular area which is the one-fifth one-half in getting anything that is needed in road improvements and some of the others. I have been contacted by constituents, and one of the county commissioners that did vote for this has had some second thoughts now, so just to apprise you of what is going on within the county, that there is some opposition to this particular thing out of at least part of the county people and also out of several of the commissioners. So with that, I would say I will not support the amendment at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, Mr. President and members, I have sympathy for what Senator Beyer has just said. I also would suggest that I may support the amendment, not because of the status quo that exists in the county, but because this is what the county commissioners apparently in their wisdom thought was the best system for them. Just keep that in mind. The Douglas County Commissioners weren't asked and nobody seems to care. In this case, Sarpy County Commissioner has a system that they think works pretty well. I do think, though, as Senator Beyer has pointed out, there are, in fact, serious problems with this. In some cases, the purposes and the needs in the rural areas of Sarpy County are served but I know from a fact that as far as it applies to city government in areas that they have jurisdiction over, like in the three-mile limit in my district, those good purposes are not served at all. Nobody really cares. The people living in those areas can't vote for those city council people, have no control over them. So I would reluctantly