

constitutional, that you can select counties without having to use the entire state. Now you can limit the number of counties and it is not illegal. So I would just like to bring that up to you. We have gone to the Attorney General's Office to see if we are in the ballpark with this amendment. I think that we need to remember that the reason that we are doing this is to provide that local input, and everybody I think here today has talked about that. They have talked about local input. They have asked, why...they have asked different questions. They have gotten around the question different ways. The proponents have asked for local input and so have the opponents to the amendment. The opponents are saying we need to go back to these communities and ask for local help, and I read that to mean ask for local help and for local input. As far as I am concerned, we are doing that with this amendment. I see really nothing wrong with it. I have no problem with limiting the counties to three, those three already selected, and the people that I visited with have no problem with that either, and I, for one, am not trying to drag out the process. I believe Nebraska is right on target with the time lines. I don't believe we have to worry about that. I don't want to delay that. I just think that we need to offer these folks their own opportunity for input. So with that, I don't even object to having everybody vote on this issue at the same time in all three of these counties. I would go along with that. I am having some difficulty with the payment procedure and I think that should be something offered in a different amendment. I don't believe that we are hassling this bill to death. I believe what we are trying to do is what we think is legally, morally, and democratically right. I don't think there is anything about the whole process of offering these amendments that is killing this bill. I think we are right on target doing what we are supposed to do, representing the people the way we are supposed to represent them, and I do not want to kill this bill. I do not want to drag it out. I do want the people to have the opportunity to vote, and I think along that order I will persist until you tell me we have to move on. So with that, I just urge your consideration, again, for advancing this bill to...advancing this amendment to the Select File bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: An amendment on the desk. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis would move to amend Senator Dierks' amendment. (See Landis amendment on