

unfair way she has been accused of not living up to her promise. Ladies and gentlemen, I think she has lived up to her promise. I believe this Legislature lived up to their promises. I believe that the vast majority of the people of the State of Nebraska, including those people who live in the counties most affected, feel that we have done the best we could do. I have received, not dozens, but hundreds of phone calls from people who have said, continue to do the work you're doing, you're on the right track, we would like to make ourselves known but we can't, we cannot suffer the abuse that we will take if we come forward publicly. I think that's unfortunate. As Senator Lamb pointed out after the hearing, the division of the communities is unfortunate. There might have been ways we could have addressed the issue to reduce that and...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...I'm sorry we didn't do it better. But we only did this once. It's sort of like many other things you do in life. You don't get a second or a third chance. Someone said once, a friend of mine, Ernie Swanson, you only get one time, you never get a second chance to make a good first impression. And that's the way it is with this. You don't get a second chance to do some of these things over, so you have to do it and you do it the best way you can. Ladies and gentlemen, the bill is not perfect but it's a bill that we can live with and I think that it's a bill that the local communities can live with. If it is not, if there is something we can legally and really reasonably do to improve the situation locally, I will be willing to listen to it and be willing to accept those amendments at another time. In the meantime, ladies and gentlemen, I would ask that the bill would be advanced after the other members have had a chance to speak. I think that the process has been well served. I'm sorry it took so long. As I said earlier, I would...I would be willing to bracket the bill if it would serve the process better, to go back to the people for another interim study. But the Legislature chose to handle the amendments and I congratulate you for the way you did it and I appreciate the time and effort both from those who supported me and those who didn't. That's, I think, the best part of this system. I hope that the divisions that were demonstrated by the voting will melt away and that we will try to make a bill that we advance and pass into law work. And I would sincerely...

PRESIDENT: Time.