

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 213, introduced by Senators Crosby, Ashford and Langford asking the Legislature to commend the efforts of geographic educators of Nebraska for initiating plans to strengthen and improve geographic education in Nebraska's elementary and secondary school programs.

PRESIDENT: Senator Crosby, are you handling this?

SENATOR CROSBY: Yes, I am.

PRESIDENT: All right.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I will just say quickly you do have a handout on your desk and it happens to be about Banner County again. We're really in to Banner County this morning, Dennis. A young man who won a national geography test and it's most unusual because geography has sort of gotten lost in the shuffle over the years and that's the reason for this particular resolution. The first question in that paragraph is what's the largest and smallest and only town in Banner County, Nebraska? How many of you know? You've already read it. Now Hyannis is not in Banner County. Harrisburg, David, go to the rear of the room. Well, at any rate, geography is very important. It's trade, it's people, it's culture, it's weather. The summer solstice is part of geography. When the sun is closest to the earth, that happens in January. Did you know that? That's part of geography. And so this...all we're asking in this resolution is for the Legislature to encourage this group of geographic educators to help them with their grant request to the National Geographic Society for planning money so that they can start working in Nebraska to enhance and encourage students to become more aware of geography and do better in geography because, with our...the world is getting smaller every day and geography becomes even more important in international trade. So by passing this resolution, what we will do is help these educators with their grant request. It will strengthen and enhance that request, so thank you very much for your vote.

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, would you like to speak about Banner County?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Only to rise and strongly support not only Banner County but the purpose of this resolution and that is geographical awareness. As Senator Crosby has pointed out, that