

may recall, a year or two ago and asked him where did I have to move to actually be in state, and he didn't seem to know. So...but the issue does keep surfacing and, in fact, I drafted this resolution a couple of years ago when this letter, this particular Rural Electric Nebraskan article generated a lot of mail, and there wasn't any consensus about what to call the rest of the state, and I think there is good reason for that. And it is kind of like being in a classroom where you have two big kids and a lot of little kids, and the teacher only knows the names of the two big kids, and you can imagine how well that would go over. So I think that probably it isn't appropriate to lump the rest of the state together using one term, that all of us who live outside of Lincoln and Omaha really should encourage people to know and appreciate our parts of the state. I am here to confess that one of the great parts about serving in this Legislature has been to even learn about places in my own district that I was less familiar with prior to serving. That may, in fact, be the case for you. As you know, when we get around on hearings and so forth, we learn a lot more about the state, and I think it is just healthier for us as a state if we pay more attention to the state, as a whole. But what really gave this some momentum was last Sunday in Tom Allan's column, there was, again, mention of this from a man named Mike Wendorff, who with his wife, Suzanne, publishes the Callaway Courier, and he talked about the "outstate Nebraska syndrome" that he said affects eastern Nebraskans. And he went on to say that there isn't a time that goes by when I go to the eastern part of the state that someone doesn't ask me if Callaway, that is in the middle of the Sandhills for those of you who don't know, is part of the state. The outstate Nebraska syndrome seems alive and well. They know North Platte, Kearney and Grand Island are out here somewhere, but aren't sure where. You have that in front of you, the whole letter, but I think there is a serious point to this, and that is, for instance, my niece and nephew live in Wyoming, and it chagrins me to know that how they are such loyal Wyomingites, but Wyoming really does have this sense of we are all from the Wyoming and we are all in this together and there is a lot of state pride. And we don't seem to have that in Nebraska, and it may be because we have chosen to divide ourselves by the kind of language we live. And as I said, it is also a very imprecise term because when you talk about outstate, I don't know if you mean outside the borders of Nebraska, or if the line begins somewhere west of Waverly, or exactly where it is. Now Senator Lynch the other day raised the point about, okay, so what is it you guys want to be called. He