

Wesely, don't tell me there isn't already competition out there, it is fierce. Communities are just desperate for development and the competition that you suggest will ensue it is, I would suggest, is already there and, in fact, LR 11 might, in fact, play a very positive role in encouraging just exactly what you say you'd like to have happen and that is regional cooperation, cooperation among cities. There is a provision in here for regional cooperation, interlocal agreements and so I would suggest that what you're throwing up here is simply naive and simply ignores the reality of what is going on all across this state. The big problem with LR 21 that you cite was essentially an ambiguity with what was going to happen to state funds. Senator Hartnett has an amendment that I assume we'll get to here pretty quick that takes care of that problem and so I guess the concern I have to raise this morning is what is apparently a double standard for the metropolitan areas of this state versus the rest of the state. You're trying to draw some parallels between 775 here and this measure and I just don't think those arguments quite mesh. You will recall that I voted against 775. If I had it to do over again I'd still vote against 775 and I think there is significant differences between the way 775 is managed and what the opportunities are there and even the impacts on our budget and what LR 11 is. For one thing, nobody gets to vote on 775. No community gets to say, gee, I don't as a taxpayer want to give these kinds of benefits to Union Pacific Railroad, or to US West, or to the packing plant, or whoever. No community gets to say that. Under LR 11 there is a complex procedure of approval starting first here, then the voters approve it and then finally the local communities approve it and I can tell you that the people that I represent out there scrutinize issues very carefully and if your concern is that somehow some unscrupulous developer or some overenthusiastic promoter is going to come in and sell people a bill of goods. You ought to come out and talk to some of my folks because they are tough to sell and they are going to scrutinize these very carefully and if they see that coming out of their property tax base, which they are very protective of, they are going to ask for hard and fast guarantees that it is going to do some good for their town or for their region. You raised questions of equity, you cannot surely argue that we have an equitable situation in this state right now in terms of economic development opportunities and, in fact, the competition in this state is not only among communities, it's across state lines. We battle day and night out there in the Panhandle to compete with South Dakota and with Wyoming and with Colorado and in the