

three years ago on it. There is so many safeguards built in this that I, personally, feel very, very comfortable to let the voters say, yes, I would like to spend my tax dollars this way. I trust...I trust them, and I know Senator Wesely does not want the voters to have to approve some of his spending measures and I don't blame him, but I still think that we owe it to the voters to say, yes, let's take a certain percent of our tax money and go ahead and use it for economic development. The dollars are so short out there that they've got to have another source and like Senator Hartnett said, city council after...first of all, the voters in Nebraska have got to approve LR 11, then the city council has got to put it on the ballot and the voters have to approve it. What's wrong with letting them decide how to spend their money? And I just want to kind of respond to something Senator Hefner said. He thinks that 25 cents on a dollar was a bargain to buy a lumberyard. It's no bargain, they still go broke. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Peterson, please.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President and members, I, too, rise to oppose the kill motion. I think that Omaha and Lincoln ought to be taken along, look at this too for benefits in the future. Right now, they're not probably strapped but I know from looking at figures that Omaha, used to get about six, seven million dollars as the figures I have right now, about 4.5 million all that community development block grants that are coming back to Omaha and Lincoln is in the same boat. So I would guess that maybe in another year or two if the...that gets dried up, that Lincoln and Omaha will be...their city officials and that will be coming to Senator Wesely and saying, hey, my God, we want...we want some...to use some funds for economic development. So, Senator Wesely, I think you better take a look at that idea because you, too, in the City of Lincoln may be coming in with a separate bill sometime if this doesn't pass and...and wanting this for your own city. And I think the cities hands are getting more and more tied when it comes for paying for economic development projects and federal economic development funds have been dwindling for years and private funds are limited. Nebraska Constitution prohibits cities from using locally generated tax dollars to help business start up, expand or relocate. This would give the voters the option to allowing city governments to use local taxes for economic development. I think it is denying the taxpayers a chance to invest in a greater extent to economic development and I think