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would appreciate your support for the measure.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. I will now recognize Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President and members, I've been asked by a couple of members why I chose not to vote on this issue and I think some of the points have been covered. There was a concern in the committee and it was shared by myself and Senator Smith and others that if we make this exemption or create this loophole for the Sarpy County folks, what prohibits the possibility of coming back next year and whittling away at the law and impacting other municipalities such as Hastings or Columbus or Grand Island? And there was concern principally by some of the REA folks, Southern Public Power which covers much of my district, also covers the City of Grand Island and some of Hastings area, and there was a concern there that this would impact their service area. And, with the amendment, I have spoken with Mr. Hoke who is the manager of Southern Public Power. He has indicated that they have no problem with the bill as it is currently written, they're just concerned of later decisions by this body to again amend the law and potentially bring in more municipalities into...under the statutes that are currently written here. So that was the only concern I had in committee and chose not to endorse the idea but in later checking with some folks that would have been impacted by the bill, they seemed to be less concerned about it with the amendment than it was originally written.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Does anyone else wish to debate this issue? Seeing none, Senator Withem, do you have a closing statement?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, the only thing I would respond to from the debate is, is this the beginning of making it applicable to other areas of the state? It clearly is not my intent. I have really no interest in this type of thing in other places. It was a problem brought to my attention by the LaVista people, as I indicated, who have an industrial tract near their community, they're growing in that direction, they don't want to have, when they're annexing all around it, a little island in the middle where they will have...they'll have problems with that sort of arrangement. I have no intent on making this applicable, no interest in making this applicable to other parts of the state. If you're concerned about that, the way to deal with that is to