

opinion, are not crucial to the bill. Of course, as it comes here, the bill is in its raw form. One of...one amendment which I offered to the committee was the requirement that there be a public hearing. Well, in all probability, there would be a public hearing anyway before this scenic river designation resolution was passed by the county board. But, to make it perfectly clear, I did offer that amendment and there are a couple of other amendments that are not all that important, in my opinion. I would...I would like you to refer to your bill book and look at the committee statement and look at the people who supported the bill in committee. You will note there were a number of private individuals, also we had two Natural Resources districts supported the bill. Also, a representative of the Natural Resources Commission supported the bill. And I might also point out that in the Niobrara area up there this would be very helpful. We have two of the four counties which are considering...being considered under the Federal Scenic Act which are starting zoning procedures. But one of the other counties which is a little bit hesitant is Cherry County and one of the problems there is the great size of that county. You know, you have people living 40 or 50 miles from the river, 40 or 50 miles away and, of course, in general, they don't think zoning is necessary for the rest of the county. That's why this bill would be helpful to them because it would be aimed at a specific problem and that would be the river corridor. I am not...I am not sure why the bill was killed in committee. I hope that some of the members of the committee will enlighten us on that fact. But it's a relatively simple bill. It means a lot to me. I would like to see this bill on the floor. It very well may be my priority bill. I have two very important bills this year and if I, you know, if I can get somebody to take one, I will take the other as a priority bill. So, in all probability, if this does get out of committee, it will be my priority bill or else it will be a priority bill of someone. So, with that, I would just hope that you could bring this bill to the floor and if you...you know, if you don't like the bill when it's on the floor, you can vote against it. But I would like to have the opportunity to debate this issue on the floor and I would appreciate your support.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Before we proceed through the speaking order, I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. They're guests of Senator Hartnett. They are 22 fourth graders from the Bellevue-Christian Academy and their teacher. Would you please stand and be recognized by