

to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would like to support the committee action and oppose the motion. This bill is very difficult to address because it is, at the same time, too broad and too loose and too narrow. And I would like to explain some of my feelings on those particular emotions, starting, first of all, at the local level and just dealing with the bill as a local measure. First of all, Senator Lamb indicated to you that it empowers counties all over the state to deal with this matter. And the first question you should ask yourself is if you want to empower counties all over the state to deal with this matter. Most scenic river bills, most propositions before state legislatures have dealt with specific sections of specific rivers or specific localities and they have dealt with it at the legislative level and not simply gone out and given every county board throughout our 93 counties the power to deal in this kind of a matter. So, in that sense, although it's at the local level, I think it is really too, too broad a measure. Secondly, I would point out, as Senator Lamb has pointed out, that this allows a county to get into the business of zoning and strip zoning even though they have no comprehensive plan. Now under the laws of the State of Nebraska, if you want to get into the zoning business, you need to have a comprehensive plan and if you don't want to be in the zoning business, fine, you don't have to have a comprehensive plan but you don't get into detailed zoning business. This breaks from our traditional rules in the sense that it's saying, okay, county board, you can do strip zoning but you don't have to have a comprehensive plan. And the reason that we require comprehensive plans is that we've discovered over time that if you involve government in zoning that it turns out to be a big mess unless you have some planning and some coordinated action and what is represented by our law now, a comprehensive plan. And Senator Lamb is saying, no, we don't have to follow that wisdom that we have discovered over time, we can go in this area that most local people know nothing about, scenic river zoning, and do what we feel like doing and we don't have to even follow any kind of comprehensive plan. If there should be some kind of comprehensive plan, it should be most of all in this area where we have little knowledge among our elected leaders about how to handle these kinds of matters. Thirdly, I would point out that there is no criteria or safeguards. Under this bill, spiteful county officials, if they were so inclined, could strip zone a 100 feet into a scenic river corridor and nothing else and we