

body, I rise to support Senator Lamb's motion. I am a little bit confused by some of the arguments that I'm hearing here, quite frankly. Senator Beutler, for one, notes that the counties could already do this if they were willing to spend a considerable amount of money on a comprehensive plan and have zoning across the entire county. And I think that is really the nub of what Senator Lamb is getting at. I think it is time to reexamine that requirement that you have a comprehensive plan before you can have any kind of zoning at the county level. The exception that Senator Lamb is proposing, I think, is a desirable exception to that scheme. We have found, in fact, across the state in the less populous counties that it is simply too expensive to engage in any kind of zoning under the current scheme of things. I am also confused by the statement that what we need is some sort of a state plan for scenic rivers. And, again, it goes back to the notion that if the counties are willing to spend money on these propositions now, that we can already have piecemeal protection of the rivers. So the only real question here is how much money are we going to force the counties to spend in order to do something that we would probably all, in our hearts, agree is desirable and that is to protect scenic rivers in the State of Nebraska. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. We will now go...or Senator Wickersham, I mean, we will go now to Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, it seems as though that our concept of what local people can do and what local people might abuse is being really discussed. I don't know of any elected board of supervisors, group of county commissioners, city councils anywhere that would take this particular ability to create a nice recreation area along a river or to do some things to enhance its quality and beauty and pervert it to some ulterior motive. It seems to me that the more that we get our local people involved in these kinds of things, the better educated everyone is going to be about the desirability and the need for our citizens to be involved and be involved locally where those conditions across our state are so diverse. We need to be able to do these things on our own. We don't need to have...have us here in Lincoln or those in Washington tell us how to manage our rivers and our waterways. We have to put up with enough mandates from above as it is. This will allow local counties, either singly and if we are properly amended in conjunction and cooperation with each other to protect resources that those local people really know are