

valuable to them. And I wish...I hope that you will all join us in bringing this bill to the floor and putting it in shape to really help the recreation and the scenic rivers and the natural resources that we need to protect in this state. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Before we proceed with the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Wehrbein. They are 12 members of the Better Half Extension Club from Palmyra. They are in the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Thanks for being with us. We will now go to Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members, I would rise in opposition to this motion to bring LB 511 to the floor. I believe Senator Conway did an excellent job, as did Senator Beutler, in outlining the reasons why the committee was right in killing the legislation and why it would be wrong for this Legislature to now bring it back to the floor of the Legislature. There are many legitimate reasons why the committee, I felt, did the right thing in killing the legislation. As has been mentioned, there are better ways in which to protect our scenic rivers. The idea of local strip zoning is not the preferable route to take, that if we are truly sincere about this legislation, the better course of action would be to sit down with the various interested parties, come back next year to work on this legislation and then to have something that truly is effective in protecting not only the Niobrara but other scenic rivers in the State of Nebraska. Now that precludes and presumes the concept of sincerity and I assume that there is some sincerity in this introduction of the legislation. We almost all have to recognize that the real reason that we have this legislation is predicated on the introduction of federal legislation to protect the Niobrara River and that federal legislation which is now pending and is most likely to pass this year is of great concern to a number of individuals along the river. They would like not to have that legislation passed and one of the means by which they have to oppose it would be to have this Legislature have some legislation that they are considering in order to make the argument that the state Legislature ought to have the opportunity to review and act on this issue rather than having the federal government intervene at this time. Well, I'm sorry, but the time has come, the water is over the dam, under the bridge and down a long ways beyond where we're at right now to