

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: The committee did the right thing in killing it. Let us allow it to rest in peace.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Before we proceed, I would like to announce some more guests of the Legislature. They are guests of Senator Morrissey. They are seven students and their teacher from Nemaha Valley High School in Cook, Nebraska. They're in the south balcony. Would you please stand and be welcome by your Legislature. Thanks for being with us. We will now go to Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support Senator Lamb in bringing this bill to the floor after the committee has killed it. And, usually, I don't go for that because I think our committee system is very good because I feel that all bills should have a hearing and then that committee should take a stand on it. But at this particular time I would like to see this bill at least brought to the floor and debated. I think there are many good reasons why I would like to see it discussed on the floor because I'm a strong believer in local control. I believe it's much better to have local control in many things in Nebraska instead of letting the federal government telling us we need to do this and that. And so this bill, as I understand it, would give local counties, where that particular river runs through, control of that corridor, that river corridor and I just think this is real good. I did notice that some of the local people really supported this bill. The local county board or boards, I should say, up there expressed their desire to have it under their control instead of under the federal government control. The Niobrara...let me talk about the Niobrara River Basin right now because part of it's in my district. But the Niobrara River Basin has still maintained its natural beauty. So, really, I don't know why we would need a scenic river bill for any portion of that. Also, the Niobrara River has still...still has its historical flow of water. It seems like the water comes from the underground springs and even in a dry year the flow of the Niobrara is very great. Also, I kind of wonder what kind of economic impact it will have if we go ahead and let the federal government say that we need a scenic river control bill for this. Also, what effect will this have on our irrigators in northern Nebraska? We must remember that agriculture is our number one industry in Nebraska and irrigation is a large part of that. This bill had a public