

hearing. There was a lot of people that testified for it and, of course, I noticed that there was some opposition. But I just want to spell out, who supported this bill? Number one, the Nebraska Farm Bureau did. And the Nebraska Farm Bureau is a grass-roots organization. They get information from members of all their counties before they make a decision to support or not to support a bill. Also, the two NRD districts in that particular locality, the Middle Niobrara and the Lower Niobrara NRD districts support this bill. The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission supports this bill. The Nebraska Cattlemen's Association...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: ...support this bill. And many of the local landowners supported this bill. Senator Wesely mentioned the Norden Dam. Well, I am a strong supporter of any dams in Nebraska where we can hold this water in our state. According to the last figures I've received, over 10 million more acre feet of water leave our state than comes into it. So I think it's only good judgment to build more of these dams or more of these reservoirs so we can hold this water. I would urge you to support Senator Lamb in his motion to bring this bill to the floor so at least we have a chance to debate it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. I will now go to Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, I would just like to take a little bit of time here to answer some of the comments that have been made in opposition to the bill. First of all, Senator Beutler mentioned that there can be a comprehensive plan and, of course, I brought that out in my opening statement. There can be a county comprehensive plan and zoning come from there. But it is terribly expensive and I would...I would point out...I would point out that only 31 counties in the state have gone through that procedure, only 31 out of our 93 counties, only one-third of our counties have gone through that procedure and I'm convinced that the major reason is because of the expense and particularly when we get into some of our larger counties out west. Also, some people say that the county board is going to do bad things. You know, I guess I can't accept that because here you have locally elected people in control, locally elected people in control. What can be better than that? The people out there would rather