

this is a conspiracy, I just don't understand that. This is a good bill, let's get it on...let's move it on.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. We will now go to Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I, too, rise in support of bringing LB 511 to the floor of the Legislature. There have been some excellent arguments here. I think it's excellent that we discuss this in some context here this morning. Those who oppose bringing it to the floor have some concerns that not enough has been done to protect the rivers and streams of Nebraska and, in many ways, I would concur. I do not know how many times in the past 20 plus years that members of this body, including myself, have attempted to do something about that. Almost without exception, we prefer to spend our money on other ways. Notwithstanding the fact that some of those are very necessary expenditures, it would seem to me that we have not had enough interest in protection of our rivers and streams. I know that, again, it's of some concern to me that the farther you get from a city site, the more devoted you are to protecting it and I wonder sometimes why the people who have never seen the Niobrara except from 30,000 feet in an aircraft are so concerned about it. I've watched that river for many years, along with many other rivers and streams in Nebraska. For the most part, it isn't the local people who are the ones that contaminate or trouble the river. Someone who comes out from our more heavily populated areas decide they like the site, they decide to buy or lease a piece of that property and they have resources far above and beyond that of the local people, they're the ones who then proceed to encroach upon that river. There was a lot of furor about the Niobrara a few years and some of us wanted to build a structure on it and impound the water. And successfully, whether for better or worse, that structure was destined to be doomed. But the river then was open for canoeing. Now if you have never traveled the length of that river from one end to the other, you ought to do it sometime when you can look down upon it from about 200 feet and take notice some times of the year of the amount of debris that has been thrown along the river banks. Wasn't put there by nature. Was not put there by local landowners. Was put there by those who "want to enjoy the river in a canoe". Now...

SPEAKER BAACK: Just a second, Senator Schmit. (Gavel.) Please come to order and the speaker, we can hardly hear him up here.