

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, this is a bill that you will remember we discussed on the floor earlier this year, has to do with the preservation of Nebraska's rivers. This bill was killed in committee, however, it was raised on the floor and is now before you on General File. It is my priority bill. This is a bill which, in its original form, would allow county boards to zone a river corridor in order to protect the river. I have an amendment which I...which is in your bill book, which I will describe in a few minutes. But, for now, let me just set the stage that you probably will remember the discussion on this bill some weeks ago. It has been brought to our attention very forcibly by the federal government that there is a desire on the part of the federal government to protect Nebraska's rivers through the Federal Scenic River Act. I concur that protection is needed but I do believe that it should be done on the local basis, that Nebraskans are perfectly capable of protecting those rivers. Now much of the discussion has been centered on the proposed bill or the bill in Congress which would provide scenic river designation for the Niobrara River, a 76-mile stretch of the Niobrara River in north central Nebraska. Now specifically this bill does not affect the federal scenic river bill, however, I would have to admit that it was brought about because of that bill, primarily because there has been criticism of those of us in Nebraska who have opposed the federal scenic river designation because we believe that that federal interference is not necessary. So that was the reason that I introduced the bill. It's a bill that applies to all of the State of Nebraska, not just the Niobrara, and would provide a method by which local control can be obtained for the protection of those rivers. And that would conclude my opening remarks, Mr. President, and I would...I would like to discuss the amendment, if I may.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lamb would move to amend his bill. The amendment is referenced on page 1307 of the Journal but you will find it in your bill books. It's AM907.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. The amendment is structured to deal with some of the criticism that I have heard of the bill previously in our debate on the floor and privately from some members of this body. The criticism was