

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise to support LB 840. We have been working on this issue for several years. I think a lot of times what people forget is that any town does not have to do this unless the voters approve it. It is strictly voter approval. I think we can't stress that enough, that it is voter approval in that community. So if you want to try to attract industry to your town, you can do it with this tool. It gives you this one extra tool that you have to work with to help your local community. I think too often we try to put funds out to different communities without having the local people involved, and with LB 840, you have the local people involved, so that if they see an industry that wants to come in that they think they would like to have in their community, they can get behind it, and they are the final ones that make that decision. It isn't the state. We are not using state funds like we are with LB 775. I think it is a much better tool than what we had with LB 775, as Senator Hefner had said. But it is another tool. It is another way to get industry into our rural towns, and with that, I support LB 840. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Peterson, followed by Senator Robak. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Madam President and members, I, too, strongly support LB 840. Really, this started as a suggestion coming out of Norfolk, Nebraska about four or five years ago, and last year, the constitutional amendment, putting it on the ballot, was my priority bill. It has taken, as you can see, a long time to get it passed, and as has been stated before, the people recognized the need for this and overwhelmingly supported it in the last election. If...I see the safeguard in the fact that if Norfolk, Nebraska, after this is passed and signed, wants to do some kind of economic development, some project, all they have to do is take it to the vote of the people, and if that isn't a safeguard, a vote of the people up there, or in any town that wants to do some economic development can vote on it. If they turn it down, it won't be done. So to me, Senator Warner talked about a safeguard. If the people want this project, they vote, and the will of the people. They voted for this constitutional amendment. It passed, and if they want some economic development and the project warrants it, let people vote and