

matter of fact, I think maybe another old-timer here, like Senator Wesely, can remember, I believe the Legislature did come in and narrow the definition of blighted and substandard some time after 1979. But I don't think you've seen people come down to the Legislature with horror stories about how this language has been misused. What this bill does is it takes the existing concept of blighted and substandard and allows it to be used in areas that are currently outside of city limits. How that ties into blighted and substandard is that by allowing more job opportunities in a community that you might not be able to allow if you did not find property, large tracts of property outside of the city limits, you are, in fact, impacting the job opportunities and the economic opportunities of those individuals who live within the city. That's what this bill does. This bill does not expand the definition of blighted and substandard. It allows the existing definitions to be applied to the community and economic conditions as a whole, and then allows areas outside of the city limits to be designated.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Wesely, your light is next.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Thank you, Madam President and members. I appreciated Senator Withem's comments because they're actually what I wanted to try and talk about. The bill comes out as a white copy, and it isn't clear what is new language and what isn't. I was trying to look at the sheet that Senator Withem passed out dealing with the summary of tax increment financing. He's correct, this issue came up when Senator Beutler and I and Senator Landis and Senator Pirsch came in, in 1979, and we did address the issue. It has been used for a number of projects in Lincoln and Omaha and I'm sure in other cities across the State of Nebraska. But the changes in that, the definitional changes, Senator Withem seems to think only really take the current definitions and extend them out beyond the city limits. And I'm wondering, I have to think that perhaps the definition is changed beyond that to include the Farmland issue, not just because it's beyond the city limits, but I think there are some other changes in addition. I don't see Senator Withem here, I was going to ask him some questions about...what I'd like to find out from somebody is exactly what are the new language and what is the current language. I haven't seen anything that actually summarizes that yet. So that would be helpful to me, to try and better understand exactly the impact of the changes. So, without Senator Withem