

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President and members of the body, I have supported the three bills throughout our debate on them. I believe that we need this kind of growth in our state, and I believe that we need the Micron project, if this will help us get that. I've been a little surprised because I believe that 830 should be the easiest of the bills that we considered because it was so similar to tax-increment financing legislation that we already had statutes, and I have been surprised that it has been the thing that we have spent the most time talking about. I would oppose the Wickersham amendment because I think that taking out eminent domain in this legislation would effectively gut the bill and would make it ineffective for the purposes of Micron. And that's why we are looking at this legislation. And since we already have tax-increment financing, it would seem that the discussion we would be having was about whether it's appropriate to use it for the purposes of Micron rather than picking apart things that we already have in statute. So I would urge the body to reject the Wickersham amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Madam President and members of the body, along with Senator Hudkins, I'm also a victim of the eminent domain process. The State of Nebraska condemned the interstate highway right-of-way right through the middle of the Matzke farm and virtually ruined it. So I approach eminent domain with trepidations also. I think that Senator Wickersham is in error in explaining the procedure involved in condemnation. When a condemnation is commenced the county court appoints appraisers who go out and view the property and make a return to the court as to the value of the property. The condemning authority then is required to pay the value of that property into court and the landowner can go...walk right into the county court that day and pick up his money. It is not a matter that delays the payment of money, and as a matter of fact it's a very prompt procedure to assure to the property owner that they're going to be paid. That's been the procedure in this state for, I'm sure, 100 years. This proposal would, and I would compliment Senator Wickersham for being innovative, although the proposal borders on being radical (laughter) because it would just virtually destroy the eminent domain process. And if you were to take