

Legislature, LB 494 was brought to us by residents of the City of Grand Island who have been working on a way to harmonize the use of the lands formerly used for a munitions plant in that area into the industrial growth and planning of the Grand Island metropolitan area. They have long-term leases with the federal government and are hoping to take over control of the land, use it for agricultural purposes, as a series of rental properties and as an industrial park. Because this is potentially one of those areas which the federal government will release control of, the federal government is looking to see who in the state would be in a position to accept control and responsibility for this area of the former munitions plant. The county government out there does not want to take it as a county project, county owned and off the tax rolls. The desire instead is to find some way of handling this property with the use of a kind of system that's already on our books for Omaha. And what you've got on the books already is the Nebraska Industrial Development Corporation Act. This is an Industrial Corporation Act which can be formed at least in Douglas County now and after this bill could be formed in any of the counties of the state. Originally, the bill came to us allowing political subdivisions generally to create these industrial development corporations. However, the committee wanted to make sure that what was available in Douglas County would be available throughout the state and yet not create a whole lot of institutions, a whole lot of subdivisions that could make use of it. So we stripped, in this committee amendment, incorporated villages, cities and municipalities. Instead, what we did was to leave this definition, "local political subdivisions means any city of the metropolitan class", that's the existing set of people who get to use this, "and any county". Therefore, the entire state would be able to use the Industrial Development Corporation Act as well as the City of Omaha, which is currently the case. I will leave for Senator Fisher the explanation of the Industrial Development Corporation, what it does, what it has the power to do. Suffice it to say that the committee advanced the bill six to nothing. Present were Senator Fisher, a Hall County Commissioner, Commissioner Landis, John Wagoner, the Hall County Reuse Committee and Andy Baird, the Cornhusker Army Ammo Plant Reuse Committee as well. These are people who are working in Grand Island to find a way to allow this former munitions plant, this ammo dump to be turned into a profitable, valuable addition to the tax rolls of Grand Island, eventually. With that, let me explain once again the committee amendment cuts back from the bill the application of this act simply to any county in the