

law on the books?

SENATOR DIERKS: I think it will do both. I think it will send the message and I think we need the law on the books. We've seen this happen in our, you've probably seen it too, Senator Vrtiska, in your area. I've seen it in my area in takings that I'm not even sure whether it's at this point, whether that was a federal taking or a state taking, but it was a group that is recognized nationally that took some land along the Niobrara River. This same group is purchasing land in Nebraska now, it has.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator, I agree with you totally. I have no disagreement with you at all that we need to have protection. In fact, you've said exactly right, that it has happened and may continue to happen. I guess my real point is why don't we try to get the laws on the books enforced that are there now which I think are really made to protect us from this and I guess my question is, will this just be another attempt to do what we should already be doing. I guess that's where my real problem is. I'm totally in support of the idea that nobody should be able to come in and take land without some kind of justification and cause and certainly some type of pay for it, but I'm just curious as how this is going to enhance the whole process.

SENATOR DIERKS: I'm not sure either, but I think that it's something that we need. There are other people that must feel the same way and I think that we've had some difficulties with enforcement in the past and if this will strengthen our enforcement procedure I think it's up to us to do that. There's too much evidence of a laxity out there and I think we need to make those...I think we need to strengthen our position.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Dierks. I just wanted to get those points on the record and I appreciate your willing to respond. Thank you very much.

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is next. Waives off. Senator Chambers, on the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to continue the discussion with Senator Dierks.