

February 28, 1996 LB 575

The County Board of Commissioners has voted unanimously to support this. The city council voted yesterday, five to two, to support it, and the mayor of Omaha, who said he doesn't support it but will not oppose it. So we are down to the point where we have something that's going in. Senator Witek and I met with some of these constituents last year because of the building of a shopping center across from the new Millard West High School. These people are coming down every street and a lot of population in this area. This is truly a bill of representation, and I encourage your support of this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hartnett, on the Pedersen amendment.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I simply rise to support the amendment as explained by Senator Pedersen. One of the things...one of the issues we deal in Urban Affairs Committee is the lack of voting power of the people that live in this extraterritorial area. And so I think this...by doing this, by establishing two people around the metropolitan city, where it seems to be a major problem, is I think this goes a long ways to solving the problem of allowing them have input into the building in this territory, in Omaha it's three miles. So I simply rise to support the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I also rise in support of the Pedersen amendment. My area has been growing very quickly in the last ten years in Omaha, and still there are a lot of my area that are not...we are still county, we are not part of the city. And many of the issues that Senator Pedersen, that he incurs in his area that cross over into my area, because a lot of the residents of that area send children to schools, we've just had one...if you're familiar with the area of Omaha at 180th and "Q" Street, where we have had hundreds of people attending meetings on what's going on with the planning in those area, the roads in those area, very concerned, things that are affecting their daily lives and we don't have any input into a lot of this because a lot of our area is not in the city yet, we haven't been annexed. A lot of our SIDs, my own included, have not been annexed into the Omaha area. So a lot of these people that we're talking to, we don't have any representation for them, anywhere for them to