

February 28, 1996 LB 1322

some local amendment to those codes, so it's a balancing act. You acquire some savings and efficiencies by some uniformity, yet at the same time you allow some local flexibility to meet the needs of the local community, and in so doing you come out ahead in meeting both concerns. So the task force that we have before you is actually generated from the housing industry itself, who feels that there is a great benefit to doing this study and this review. I do...don't usually pass out cartoons, but if you look at the "Blondie" cartoon, for a little levity, you'll see an individual going through the different process to get a permit. And it's funny, but it's also actually kind of sad because I have a case that actually prompted this proposal on the task force here in Lincoln of an individual, a family that wanted to convert a home into a licensed day-care center, that had individuals come in and say, this is the code and this is what you must do. They would do it. The next person would come in and inspect and say, oh my, why did you do that? That's wrong! You have to do it this way. They would do that, and then the next person would come in from a different office and say, what are you thinking when you do something like that? You should have done it the first way, and have them running around, in circles, where they don't know who to believe and what to do, and end up wasting money and time because they can't get a straight answer from people that will know exactly what needs to be done. That's the situation we have in our state today. And it happens, not just in Lincoln, where this case came up, but it happens elsewhere across the state of Nebraska. Nobody wants that. The code enforcement people don't want that, the industry doesn't want that, we shouldn't want that. And the way to address that is to bring the different portions together on this task force, have them talk about what we need to get done, and find a way to balance out, as I said, the need to have quality housing, and yet at the same time, where there are some costs involved that don't need to be there, let's find a way to address that. I should also indicate that the Affordable Housing Commission that's been in existence for a number of years has already published a book, Cost Reduction Opportunities in Housing, so there has been groundwork laid on this. There is already a lot of interest in it. The simple fact of forming a task force and bringing everybody to the table will help us take it the next step and find solutions to the problem. We know the problem is there, the question is, what do we do about it? This task force will help us find the answers, that's why I oppose the Maurstad amendment because we need to allow this task force

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