

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to indefinitely postpone. Senator Baker, you have the option to lay the bill over, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: I'll take it up, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Taking the bill up. Senator Beutler, to open on your motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I suppose in the history of things we go through cycles from time to time and sometimes we go in one direction and sometimes we go in another, but back a couple of decades ago, when we got into highway beautification, there was a tremendous problem in terms of people being cognizant of the aesthetics of highways. I'm one of those people that believes that what you see in your everyday life, the architecture, the forms, makes a big difference to how you feel, and it makes a big difference, perhaps more importantly from an economic point of view, it makes a difference as to how people view your state when they drive through it. It's a tourism issue. It's an economic development issue and it's a purely aesthetic issue, a spiritual issue. This bill would retain the department's authority over the interstate highway but, for example, one classification of highway that would no longer be regulated by a state permit would be that of scenic byways. Scenic byways are a whole class of roads sometimes related to state parks and other draws. Sometimes they're long stretches that, for example go through the Sandhills. A drive through the Sandhills, by the way, I know from some people I...some friends of mine from out of state is quite an impressive thing to people. It is indeed that highway up there, some of the roadways, are very important to tourism, and it's very important, I think, that the regulation with regard to junkyards be kept in place. Not all...not all counties do have zoning, even though a lot more of them do now, but I do think that, in addition to the county interest, and certainly I don't believe that this bill or this would keep the counties from doing any additional zoning they might want to do, but in addition to the county interest I think there is a state