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FLOOR DEBATE

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SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schimek, Senator Baker. Senator Baker, your light is next.

SENATOR BAKER: I'll continue to try and lay a foundation here. What the Department of Roads...this is an evolution of government jurisdiction. As I stated earlier, originally Department of Roads were required to regulate junkyards, signs, and so on, et cetera, across the state, as part of that Highway Beautification Act back in...I don't remember what year, back in the sixties. Times have changed. Department of Roads sees the issue down in Senator Vrtiska's district that says counties have jurisdictions over this, it's not something we want to do. We're not required to do it anymore. The federal funds from this highway beautification project, I believe testimony that said there haven't been any funds involved for over 20 years now dealing with this. This bill attempts to transfer jurisdiction back to the counties, where I feel it belongs, personally. I'm going to check also. I think there's only three counties that aren't zoned. I'm going to check on that. Somebody else said five, but there's very few of them. And I think those are probably in the process of zoning. I don't know. But nearly all the counties are zoned. They have jurisdiction over junkyards, of course, anything like this. And this is simply the evolution of the process, whereby now these counties should be charged with regulating this, not the Department of Roads from Lincoln. Each county should be able to determine, yes, the junkyard is screened, and so on, instead of Department of Roads. There are no federal funds, apparently, involved anymore with this. Department of Roads sees the need to clean it up. They have no interest in continuing to maintain regulations over junkyards on these...on state and federal highways, other than what's required, and that's along the interstate. So I would hope that we can go ahead and pass this bill. I may ask Senator Vrtiska down there, would you respond to a question, please, Senator?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes, I will.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR BAKER: Do you...have you in your experience had any