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FLOOR DEBATE

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SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...they wanted to use it to further augment the Arch situation. I know Lincoln County has projects; up in the northwest, around Fort Robinson, a great potential for attracting more tourists. And to the extent, it seems to me, that we can have people from other states flood this state in the summertime and drop their money and leave, that's got to be good. That's got to be good for rural communities and, believe me, I think it would be good for Lincoln too. I think it's good for everybody. But the bottom line is that's the local choice. If your local motel people don't have this broad vision but have some narrower vision that they want to argue to the county board, let them come into the county board and say, no, this is not for us, that's a local choice. If you're for local choice, this empowers...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...counties to make that local choice. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. One of the things that I should mention, however, is that this will not be used in Buffalo County. We already have a tax system in place to help with local areas out there, so this is not a bill that will be used to help the Arch become successful, so I think it's worthwhile that we mention that. But I think that the reason that I support this bill is that it does give the option to the various entities across the state of Nebraska. This is a local option by the county, so that they don't have to do it if they're fearful of the competition from across the border or whatever. But here is an opportunity for the North Plattes, the Sidneys, the Scottsbluffs of the world, so I think it is good for the rural areas as well as the metropolitan area. Omaha has been doing this for the last several years in one form or another. I think it's appropriate that the other entities in the state have the same opportunity.