

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 7, 2003

LB 754

this state and other states that have become too restrictive and place too many hoops for individuals to jump through, too many problems for builders, developers to do projects in. And so those particular communities are passed by and they go to other areas. Agriculture is very, very important to this state, maybe the one, the most important industry that we have, and any time that we take down the sign open for business and take it down, we run the risk of not only injuring agriculture but all the industries that support agriculture, including those from the largest communities in this state. For seven years, as I served on the city zoning board of appeals, which was the appeal board where if you had a problem with a particular zoning area that you could come to this board and discuss it, find relief, but even more important than all the zoning laws that are in a city, it's a matter of attitude, or all the zoning laws within the state, it's a matter of attitude. Are you really wanting industry, are you really wanting investment to come into the state, or are you just saying, no, I'm happy with where I am; I don't want to expand it any more? And any time a city or any time a community, any time a state says no growth, that's exactly what they have, no growth, and the opportunities coming in for growth go elsewhere. And I am concerned about Nebraska and what...we're not in an island here all by ourselves. We have competition from other states--South Dakota, Kansas--whether that be development of beef packing operations, ethanol plants or whatever. We grow crops here. If we're going to get the greatest potential out of those crops, we need markets for those crops. Those markets are in livestock, they're in ethanol production and there are other opportunities, but if we don't allow that to happen they just absolutely will not happen and we close the door to that, and I think that would be a big mistake. Now the bill certainly has local zoning control. I think that's great. But I think if we advertise and if we say that we are open to investment, that we are open to livestock friendly operations, then we need to be there, and it is that attitude that we need to have as a state to allow that to happen. And so I would just encourage, as we move further on in this debate, that we do not forget about what we are about in this state. We have a large state; we have many opportunities. I think this is an opportunity that we grow, that we can...