

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

April 8, 2004

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you a path of least resistance here, and you can take it or you can leave it. Quite frankly, I'm a little disappointed in the communities and the metropolitan areas of Omaha and Lincoln and the NRDs, because they have not unified on this. And we have let the lobby control the discussion the past few times it's been on the floor. And I am...I have asked the Speaker for time this morning, because if we can do this, I think it will help. It gives us a way out. It's not the preferred method. It's not what came out of committee. But if we don't do this, I think we're going to end up in court, I think the EPA and the judicial system will not look very kindly on the state of Nebraska if we don't have some means of funding our obligations to clean up our storm water. I don't know how plain I can put it to you. It only takes on person on this floor to kill this bill. But I can tell you, the blood will not be on my hands. I have tried. Maybe it's lack of leadership from my part that we haven't been able to do anything yet. I hope that's not the case. There is a procedure we can do this morning by voting down...Senator Chambers, I believe you have divided the question. We can ask the body to vote down the three divisions, and then we can withdraw the next three amendments, and then we can accept AM3353. And that amendment gives the cities and the natural resource districts budget authority to address the storm water problems. The money will have to be put in a separate fund, and cannot be used for any other purpose. It allows the cities to contract with any corporation for the purpose of developing, establishing, and implementing storm water management programs or projects. It allows the natural resource districts to develop and establish and implement storm water management programs. And I'll tell you right now, I don't think the cities can do it without the NRDs, and I don't think the NRDs can do it without the cities. It has to be a joint project. Because some of the projects are going to have to be done outside of the city limits. It allows the cities and natural resource districts to cooperate with each other as well as other political subdivisions and public agencies. It has a severability clause. Now the choice is yours this morning. You can kill this bill. But I'll tell you, the blood will not be on my hands. And when we're in court next year,...and the financial ramifications are huge. If you don't believe it, go down to Kansas City and ask them what happened down there when they ignored the EPA