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LB 546

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Brown, you're next. Waives the opportunity. Senator Jensen. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I also support this bill. I think it's very, very important. As we move and as Nebraska grows, I think it's very important that we recognize the needs that are before us. And I become very concerned as Interstate 80 is being "six-laned" down through...between Omaha and Lincoln, and eventually will go further west. And it bothers me any time I see that we're tearing out bridges, we're doing things that, with proper planning, long-term planning years ago, maybe we wouldn't have to be expending all these dollars. Also, I think we need to look very closely at our waters, our sewers, our power, all of the resources that are in this area, so that we don't undersize an area that someday we might have to go in and tear it all out again and build it over again. So I think we need to build for capacity in whatever we do. We need to plan ahead, certainly, without a doubt, that proper planning saves in the long run. It also gives indication to developers, builders, all of those that might have interest, of where direction is going, where you want to move, and then also the zoning that goes along with that, what is proper, what is the highest and best use for a piece of property. I've talked with some individuals who watched Dallas and Fort Worth grow together, and some of the problems that occurred, and also some of the things that did not occur because of insufficient planning. I think here we have the opportunity to look at a large area, an area that is going to experience growth. But let's have it be planned growth, and let's have it be a situation that in 20 years from now we can look back and said, that's good, that has resulted in proper planning, it has resulted in proper development, without, again, duplicating costs and expenses. So I really do stand in support of both the amendment and the bill. Hope that we can move forward on this. I really have seen a spirit of cooperation between Omaha and Lincoln that I have not seen in the past. Both presidents of both chambers of commerce are working very close together. They have monthly meetings and, to me, that's a big step forward. Gee, a state of 1,700,000 people; we need to do whatever we can