

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

March 10, 2005 LB 217

terrible public policy to exempt or to not include any of the NRDs, so I start from what I think is an indefensible position, which is that they shouldn't be included at all. So I'm interested in including in as many as possible. Certain members of your committee were very much against including NRDs that had a city of the metropolitan class in them, and there may be a variety of reasons why they feel that way and maybe they will speak of those. But I think there is a good rationale for excluding that particular NRD simply on the basis that it is the only NRD that has such an incredible financial base, that is, the base of Omaha and Sarpy County, and so, quite arguably, they don't need whatever benefits this bill might give that particular district, and that would be my personal rationale.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I see. And, Senator, please understand that I believe it's better to have a bill out here that helps a whole lot of subdivisions than having no bill at all, if you...if you understand where I'm coming from. So I'll just listen to the body. Whatever the body decides to do, I probably won't be supporting it, but I'll keep thinking about it. I mean, I'm probably not going to be voting for it, but I'll listen to everybody's discussion. If my...if the Government Committee members get up and say this is a reasonable compromise, then I think that will be okay, and maybe I can hear from some of them who wanted to omit the NRDs from the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. On with discussion of the Beutler amendment, Senator Mines, followed by Senator Flood and others.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. Let me just stand in support of the underlying bill, LB 217. I think that ultimately that is the key to this entire discussion. It's important that local governments have this opportunity and option to rapidly respond to their needs at the local level. AM0614 I also support. It makes great sense. And AM0744 I've agreed to support as well. As a matter of public policy, Senator Schimek makes a great argument that they should all be included or they should all not be included. On the other hand, I think this is a unique application where, in fact, we do have a wealthy district that is historically aggressive, that has