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

March 30, 2005 LB 161

they have to establish principles of benefit. You can't do any special assessments anywhere without establishing principles of benefit. You know, front footage; we do it different ways with different kinds of improvements, and they...and they would have to do this. And if a particular neighborhood wanted to have this sort of a district, then they would establish a process for doing that whereby people can object, or file petitions, you know, however we've done it for ornamental lights and other kinds of districts in the city of Lincoln. They would have to go through that process at the local level but, again, the benefit of it is that if a group of people want to have their...an assessment district in their area, they would be able to do it and, by means of that, have trees now that they may not get for 20 or 30 years down the line if they are in order for the regular tree program of the city.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator. I'm concerned about, you know, how these are going to be created. In the amendment here, it says that the city will create by an ordinance, you know, the districts. Will that be coming from the city because of the property owners, that they want to create this? I do not know, you know, totally how the mechanics works about creating those districts, and that's what I'm concerned about.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: But I do see some value in it. If there's a lot of, you know, older trees in that area and they want to put some new ones in, possibly there's a benefit to that community, to that area what realistically is not a benefit to anyone else in the city. And, rightfully so; then they should be assessed the tax on it. So I am just...I'm undecided on this, but I just wanted to raise these questions to try to get it clarified. And I thank you for the discussion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Friend, and this will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I just wanted to say one more time, I wanted to add something to this. I don't think it's been discussed,