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FLOOR DEBATE

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elsewhere, go forth and go find your tree district elsewhere, because this is not the place for it. So I think that that's a little bit unrealistic. Finally, I'd say this. We've added the safeguards, I think, to the degree Senator Beutler brought that up. An assessment district is being proposed without a prior authorization petition as described in this subdivision, the owners of the record title representing more than 50 percent of the front footage of the property abutting upon the streets, avenues, or parts thereof, which are within such proposed district, may, by petition, stop formation of such district. What we're doing now is empowering...I think we're empowering these local entities. We have to make a decision whether this empowerment is appropriate or not. I'll continue listening to the discussion. But I guess I'm beginning to think that with term limits, things happening...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FRIEND: ...from a state level to our type of representation, maybe this type of creative thinking is important at this point. With that, I believe that's all I have here. Mr. President, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Redfield and others.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, if we pass this amendment, it will be one of the most conservative special assessment districts created in the state of Nebraska. It surprises me that all of a sudden people are giving such thought to special assessment districts, when we go on and on creating them without this kind of in-depth questioning. Well, it's a good debate. But just for an example, if you look on page 4...page 6 of LB 161, the very bill that we have, it says that cities of the second class can order the repair of sidewalks and assess it against the owners, without any petitioning, without any remonstrance, without anything except an ordinance. So what we're doing is a very conservative methodology, pursuant to the directions you gave us on General File. We have created a petition process whereby, by one method or the other method, 51 percent of the people in the