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FLOOR DEBATE

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assessment area are going to control what happens. And that's basically as we do for a whole large number of other types of districts. Your street goes through your neighborhood. The paving is done by special assessment, oftentimes, and assessed to the property owner. Does it increase the value of a home? It probably does. So we're not asking that anything be treated...created any differently. In terms of who pays the assessments, we're not asking for anything different there. When you do paving in front of a nonprofit corporation, establishment of one type or another, they pay part of the assessment. That's the way it is now. So it would be with trees. Of course, they also have the right to protest, though. So you know, if they...if they're going to protest, then you're probably not going to get a district. But the thing I want to continue to emphasize is that this is one of the most conservative forms of an assessment district. And I would hope it would be acceptable to you. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. On with discussion. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Why don't we just remove the lids? Why don't we just remove the property tax lids? Senator Friend stood here at this microphone and talked about empowerment, and he talked about local governments making the decisions. Then I'm going to say, the ultimate empowerment is to remove the lids. Because it seems to me that we're doing our best to try to find ways around the lids that the Legislature has created to keep property tax burdens down for our citizens. Now, there are a number of things that enter into this picture. We have a series of boulevards through our cities. They're beautiful. They're fun to drive. And when the trees enhance the view, it benefits all of the citizens of the city, and all of the citizens from outside the city that come and drive down those streets. I drive into Lincoln every morning. I've enjoyed the roses during the summer, I've enjoyed the daffodils in the spring. And those are planted in the parking areas. There is something to be said for the general population sharing the cost of beautifying the cities. Because, in fact, everyone enjoys the view, not just the people who live along the square footage. Senator Stuthman