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FLOOR DEBATE

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is right. It will raise the property taxes for those people as the trees grow up. And they will pay double, because they will in fact pay for the assessed value of their house as it increases. There are programs in place. We have, through the Environmental Trust Fund, Keep Lincoln Beautiful. There are some grant programs. Certainly, neighborhood associations can plant trees. And I will tell everyone that the thing I hate the most about New York City is the fact that there is not enough green. I abhor cities that don't have trees. But I will tell you that Nebraska has done a good job. In fact, last week, we had awards given to I don't know how many cities for planting trees and having trees throughout their cities. I don't know if Lincoln was one of the recipients. My guess is they were. Senator Hudkins, she alluded to 51 percent of the property owners having to gather a petition within 30 days. And that is a protection. But it is also a burden on those folks to find the notice, to have time in their schedule to go out and get those signatures. And remember that it is not the person living in the house you have to get the signature from, but the person who owns the house. So if there is a distant property owner, you don't even know who they are, and it would be pretty hard for anyone organizing a petition to get those signatures, if in fact the owner did not reside in the house. There is a provision in the handout from Senator Price. She said that service would be reliable, that street tree assessment districts would provide adequate resources for maintenance and upkeep of Lincoln's public tree infrastructure. And Senator Price, I'm going to give you the rest of my time to respond. My question is this. Once a tree district is formed, is this in perpetuity? Or is this a one-time assessment? Because if it's a one-time assessment, it can't deal with maintenance and upkeep. It can only plant trees. But the wording we see in the amendment would include maintenance. It would also include removal. So we could actually have an assessment to just remove trees, and nobody gets a tree at all. So I'm going to give you the remainder of my time to address those questions. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Schimek. I'm sorry. Senator Price, did you wish to use some of her time?