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FLOOR DEBATE

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don't want to do it, they don't have to. It's that simple. This is a choice of the people in that district. If they want to establish these plantings and so on and pay for the perpetual care, all at once if they want to, or they may pay it on a payment plan, the way I understand it. So I can't...I'm going to vote for this amendment and I'm going to vote for the bill. I think it's important. I think it's important to the city of Lincoln to have something that is that impressive, and I wouldn't doubt if other cities wouldn't come in and, after they see eight or ten years down the road what this city has done, wouldn't try something like that themselves. So thank you for the time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, this is not about lids. City of Lincoln is not trying to avoid a lid rule. They don't have to. It's not about creating inequities. You all know that in the large mass of improvements that go on in a community there are always going to be some perceived inequities. I bet every one of you lives in a town where there are some unpaved roads. Is that fair to all the taxpayers that there's unpaved roads in certain parts of town that aren't required to be fixed up like everybody else's? There are inequities all over the place, but that's part of the reason we have local control, to try to sort out those inequities at the local level and make the best of what we can. And that's what we're trying to encourage here, is to allow the citizens of Lincoln to deal with this on the local level. You know, trees have been a special thing in this state from the very beginning of the state. The diaries...the diaries of the pioneers are filled with this agonizing distress that people felt when they came out here on the plains and there were no trees, and Arbor Day was born. And Arbor Day has been associated with Nebraska for 100 years. The National Arbor Day Foundation, we're associated nationally with trees. And beyond that, within the state of Nebraska, I really feel like the people of the city of Lincoln have a special affinity for what they call their urban forest, and they want it to be special, and they don't want it to be run down for lack of funds. We just recently had a whole large citizen group form to deal with