

the Green Belt law. The provision of this one amendment as I have suggested will put in some proper language that those people who currently are given the benefit of the Green Belt in Douglas County and would perhaps be disqualified, they should not be penalized for that. I caution though to tell you that in my opinion they do not qualify now in existing law and I believe there has been some indication that the County Board knows that and just proceeded ahead anyway, so we are trying to protect them as best in every way we can but in part, the problem that you raised was brought on by them themselves, that is that Douglas County was not brought on by the enactment of the law as it now stands. By the way, I should point out there is no problem in Douglas County if they are within the three mile zoning area of the City of Omaha. That would comply and the passage of this act, to my knowledge, would not adversely affect anybody in the three mile area. It is only area outside the zoning area of Omaha that has not been properly implemented as I understand it.

SENATOR BEYER: Do you think that we can come up with a better definition of the agricultural use versus development use that is needed for agriculture on those pieces of ground?

SENATOR WARNER: In what respect?

SENATOR BEYER: Well I am not sure that the agriculture use has really been defined when they buy those acreage parts or whether they are, you know, being broke up. I agree if they are subdivided they should go ahead and be taxed but a lot of these are not. They are just firmly acreages. Some of them are being used for a truck garden which is they are making their living off of that twenty acres but if they get stuck with a higher tax it is going to put them people out of business. We have got a lot of truck gardens in.....

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Beyer, I know there is opposition in Douglas County for any change because they are assessing Green Belt to land that is industrially and commercially zoned as several thousands of dollars of an acre potential over and above agriculture zoning and in no way will I support legislation nor does the existing law permit people to hold property for development purposes and to have the zoning that permits development purposes, but then expect the rest of the.....

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR WARNER:taxpayers in the county to subsidize that privilege of holding the funds back. So the whole concept of Green Belt is not to give you any advantage or give