

February 11, 2009

Senator Bill Avery  
Chair, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
State Capitol  
1445 K Street, P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: LB 450

Dear Senator Avery and members of the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee:

The City of Lincoln writes today in support of LB 450. Since 1977, the Legislature has assigned to the City responsibilities for the protection of the setting of our magnificent State Capitol. The State has set limits on the heights of buildings surrounding the Capitol and the City has enforced these limits through our zoning and building permit processes. In 1988, the State established the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission to further protect the Capitol setting.

The "Capitol Environs District" established by the State includes the blocks adjacent to the streets and malls extending north, south, east, and west from the Capitol in order to protect the public enjoyment of viewing the Capitol Tower throughout our capital city and beyond. As Lincoln grows and develops, some adjustments to the District boundaries are prudent to maintain the protections intended by the Legislature.

LB 450 extends the west boundary of the District from South 10<sup>th</sup> St. to South 5<sup>th</sup> St., in order to maintain the dramatic views of the Capitol from Rosa Parks Way, which has become a major entryway to Downtown Lincoln from the west. The Commission has requested this change.

If LB 450 is enacted, the Commission must amend its "Capitol Environs Design Standards" to include the added blocks. The Commission has stated its intention to address only the height of new structures in the blocks between 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets (west of the County/City Complex), not other design aspects such as materials or landscaping.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on bills before you.

Sincerely,

Marvin Krout, Planning Director  
Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Dept.

Cc: Senator Kathy Campbell