

2 NINETY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
3 SECOND SESSION  
4 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 386

5 Introduced by Dierks, 40; Chambers, 11

6 WHEREAS, the economy of rural Nebraska is suffering  
7 during the current economic downturn and never enjoyed fully the  
8 benefits of the economic prosperity of the late 1990's; and

9 WHEREAS, all 48 Nebraska counties identified as rural are  
10 losing population and jobs primarily because young people are  
11 leaving those counties; and

12 WHEREAS, rural areas of Nebraska are in need of focused  
13 efforts to identify and develop new means of economic survival and  
14 vitality; and

15 WHEREAS, that within the four campuses of the University  
16 of Nebraska there are unique resources that can be applied to  
17 address critical, unique, and urgent economic development needs of  
18 rural communities, businesses (including farming and ranching),  
19 organizations, and other individual enterprises; and

20 WHEREAS, because of its land grant status, the University  
21 of Nebraska has both the obligation and the expertise to apply its  
22 research and outreach capabilities toward improving the economic  
23 and social climate of rural Nebraska and in realizing new economic  
24 opportunities; and

25 WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska has formulated the  
26 Rural Initiative, calling on experts from all campuses within the

1 university system to assist rural Nebraska by developing new  
2 initiatives and specific programs, services, and assistance in the  
3 areas of business development entrepreneurship, e-business for  
4 small businesses, expansion of distance education, telehealth,  
5 telemedicine, value-added agriculture, youth and young adult  
6 development, and food systems security; and

7 WHEREAS, the University of Nebraska is working in  
8 partnership with the expertise and resources of public and private  
9 individuals and organizations also working in the area of rural  
10 economic development.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE  
12 NINETY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

13 1. The Legislature endorses the efforts of the  
14 University of Nebraska in carrying out the objectives of the Rural  
15 Initiative.

16 2. The Legislature urges the University of Nebraska to  
17 provide collaborative leadership and continue its partnership  
18 activities with other entities working in the area of rural  
19 economic development.

20 3. The Legislature urges the University of Nebraska to  
21 continue to strive for excellence in the area of rural development.

22 4. The Legislature urges the creation of an advisory  
23 body consisting of internal and external representatives interested  
24 in the well-being of rural Nebraska to advise on priorities for the  
25 Rural Initiative's programs, services, and policy strategies.