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FLOOR DEBATE

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in ninety-seven when this legislation took place. He presented over 75 workshops for community groups to tout the virtues of this economic development tool that was to give hope and a vision to a state that was reeling from a devastated economy with no sunlight on the horizon. He's had the pleasure of seeing the theories behind the economic stimulus then become 70,000 new jobs and \$15 billion in new investment. It took political courage and political leadership by Governor Orr and the legislative leaders then, to give Nebraskans hope for the future. But how soon we forget. Yeah, it takes investment to make economies work. You look at the communities across the state that have thrived since this bold legislation took effect, and you will find that those that used the economic development tools the Legislature has given us has made them work. You look at those communities who have wallowed in their self-pity and took no bold steps to be progressive, and you will find that those that chose not to implement the economic tools that were given to them. In recent years, I have seen negative forces...and this is Mr. Person again; I have seen negative forces successfully dismantle and render useless the community development laws and other financing legislation. Let's not let the same thing happen to LB 775 and its companion legislation.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: We will pay a dear price Nebraska simply can't afford. But the sad reality is, we won't see its devastating impact until it's too late. I can sell Sidney in Nebraska up against anybody today that wants to compete for jobs and investment. But I'm not so sure about tomorrow. I plead with our lawmakers and fellow Nebraskans to look at the overall impact that these direct and indirect jobs have on sales, income, and property investments made in this state since 1987. When you look only at the rewards, given the performers and now what the performance has created, you're really dummifying down to a remarkable level a great vision. This was written by...by Gary Person, as a man who has seen a city go from 4,200 jobs, and in just 20 years, 6,400 jobs. This is a town of 5,900 people. We have more jobs in Sidney than we have people living there. It seems to me that LB 775 works, let's not dismantle it.