

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB788

Chairperson: Senator John Stinner

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: February 08, 2022

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Applications to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) for the Rural Projects Act has surpassed early expectations. Four communities had their application into the DED the morning of the first day applications were accepted. Requests totaled \$73 million. Other communities have indicated they, too, would like to participate if funds became available.

Due to negative business factors arising from the COVID pandemic, manufacturing and warehousing businesses have expressed interest in relocating to Nebraska. These businesses require rail siting and land to build--exactly what the Rural Projects Act is intended to create.

Therefore, LB788 seeks to expedite the availability of the \$50 million state investment by fully funding the Act in this biennium budget.

Due to the overwhelming demand from communities to participate in the Act, LB788 removes the present funding limit and allows this or future Legislatures the ability to continue to add funding to the Rural Projects Act into the future.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Groene