

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...and we've got to...we've got to maximize that by adding a 50 percent increase in the benefit. This really is the unwise portion of the bill. Lower the threshold, make more people available but give them the same size pat on the back.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Korshoj, followed by Senators Ashford, Schmit and Warner.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. Speaker and members, I'm opposed to this amendment. When I look at what we have done on this bill and we've lowered it from 100,000 to 75,000 you got to realize the people that invest the 75,000, it's a greater chore for them people than it was for Mutual of Omaha to invest 20 million or ConAgra to invest 20 million. This is a way, way tougher job for them. And giving them \$1,500 is really not giving them that much. These companies we're talking about out in rural Nebraska, they're the people that keep those communities going, period, not by the people they hire but by all the local programs they support. I know they're tax deductions as advertising but they support the schools with their summer programs and day after day they have to donate to keep the community going. So we're really not giving them that much. Carson Rogers got a letter from the Chamber of Commerce in Norfolk and he says that he would like to see us work the bill over a little next year and not mess anymore this year and he says he had previously suggested the threshold level be either/or, that is two additional employees or 75,000 investment to qualify for tax credits. Either/or, and we're making them...we're making them do both to qualify. And I thought it was ironic when Senator Landis was talking about people doing what they probably would have done anyway, I was having trouble...if he was talking about 270 or 775, we just heard Don Wesely give that argument that the big percent was going to do it anyway and yet we're going to subsidize them 26 to 30 million every year to the year 2002. So, really, I think we should leave it at the 1,500. I think that if it's a pat on the back, I really think we should give them the pat on the back then if that's what it is because it's no great amount of money. We went through this argument a year ago on what the level should be and I don't remember if we started at 2,500 or 15 or 2,000, we wound up at 1,000. That's really not very much. And these people that invest in these communities, I would say most of