

what people's philosophies are there and can take those dollars and put them to the best use. I think that's the best use we get out of the money. I think in the New Horizons project we...one of the eight things that they mentioned is long-term strategies. One of those is to more and more involve local government in economic development, and I think that is absolutely necessary. When we get to the state level, we're talking about another bureaucrat who simply goes out and in some cases I think hinders the local economic regional planning agencies that we already have out there. So I don't think that this is the thing to do with the money. I think it would be much better used if we would put it into something like the amendment of LB 639 which we should get to. That's on the top of the list of the committee priority bills. We should have a chance to get to that yet this session. With that, I would...I guess I would urge you to adopt Senator Haberman's amendment. At least it goes a little ways to doing what we want to do. I think that may be followed by another amendment that says all the offices would have to be located in a town of 5,000 or less which I definitely would support. With that, I would like to give the rest of my time to Senator Smith.

PRESIDENT: You have two minutes.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Senator Baack. I rise to support the Haberman amendment and I will support the amendment which will follow from Senator Scofield I believe, because I agree totally in the fact that, yes, we do need grant writing assistance out there. We need information about how to facilitate funds and there are a lot of programs out there and there is not a lot of coordination. I happen to work with one of those programs and one of the things that I can tell you is that, for instance, more than the help that they receive from anyone else, communities are now realizing for themselves, as Senator Baack said, what they need, and that is a regional kind of concept. I could give you an example of one in my own area which is, I guess, a hallmark for the state and for the nation in some ways. It's sort of a pilot project where three of my communities, little towns which were dying, drying up, decided to form what they call the Greater Silver Lake Community Development Association. What they're doing is they are deciding among themselves, they're putting some goals down, they're working together and what they're doing is trying to start a few small businesses without duplicating each other. I gave them some information about where they could look for some