

I'm suggesting that if you look on the one map that I've passed out here that's got some handy-dandy coloring done in it, the white spots, and the middle white spot in particular are those areas that aren't currently served by a development district. They aren't served by an economic development field office unless you really buy into that notion that this person is really going to be able to drive around and do all of these things, which I doubt. They are not close to business development centers. These are truly, in my opinion, communities that are most likely to be underserved. They fit that characteristic of being under 5,000 and they take care of that central part of the state that's least likely to have services, and I have suggested that we should designate in this amendment that the field offices should go to Ainsworth and to Ord and to Red Cloud because that is really a big white spot in there in terms of not having access to services. And so I am proposing that if you, in fact, decide that you want to build field offices, this would make more sense than putting them in growing communities that have either ready access to services right now or that are probably able to support a chamber of commerce and some other activities, that it would be wiser to put people out in the kinds of towns that really need the help. I don't know how you can understand in Ainsworth if you don't live in that kind of town. I think you need to get yourself immersed in the lifestyles of those small communities so that you can understand them and bring about some meaningful change. And so I am offering this amendment as a way to locate field offices, Ainsworth, Ord and Red Cloud, and, in fact, I've even cut down one so you can even save a little money here but those are truly the underserved regions in this state. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please. Would you like to speak on this? Okay, Senator Coordsen. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: I think this is a great idea. I'm all for it. Let's go. (laughter)

PRESIDENT: Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Question.

PRESIDENT: Okay, let's see five hands, please. The question is, shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Bernard-Stevens.