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up a minute and a half each to Senator Smith and Senator Scofield and Senator Conway. Senator Smith, can start.

PRESIDENT: Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Senator Wesely. You know, I think he is making a valid point, and because of the fact that I am an independent contractor working with the main street business program, I know that we have actually referred people to the Business Development Center in Kearney. They are excellent folks, but the fact is, they are so understaffed that it is very difficult for them to be able to find the time to get out to reach the needs of all of those businesses after we refer them to them, after they have had the referral, for them to actually, physically be able to have the time to travel to that business and see it, the plant itself, and the financial records, which often that is one of the biggest problems with small businesses is the lack of management as far as finances, and they would work with them on site. Also the fact that they have to put them off for a period of time, and when businesses are finished with a session, they are ready now, and they also realize the need that they have right now, and so it is very frustrating to them. I think this would be...this is a concept that is something that is really worth looking at because we already have the offices there. If we had a field representative who could go out and work with these folks and then go back and work in the office, I think that might be a very good idea for the use of these funds.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wesely I think is trying to support the entities that have the most credibility out there right now in terms of the regions. Senator Bernard-Stevens is right. There isn't one of these in that big white spot, but Gene Koepke and the NBDC I think have as much credibility in that region as anybody and frankly, Senator Langford, I'm a little surprised that you wouldn't say let's put one of these people in Cozad because the NBDCs have a record of delivering. And as Senator Smith has pointed out, they are understaffed, but they are evenly distributed around the state. They are out of the University of Nebraska, Omaha. They are located in Peru, Wayne, Chadron, Scottsbluff, North Platte...who am I forgetting? Kearney, and then they reach out in a network and they cover a tremendous amount of area. And,