

then and that she is, I have not talked to her lately, but I have visited with Dennis Baack about the conversations they have had, and I am willing to give the Governor a chance to make this department serve rural Nebraska better. This has, as he indicated, come about as a recommendation of some groups, and I have to express some level of skepticism here because it has been some time here that since I have been in here that it seems like we kind of come back again and again and again and rehash some of these issues without any noticeable progress, particularly in the area of rural development. Part of that may be because it is very difficult to do. There aren't any real good models out there that we can just go adopt, but there has to be a commitment to want to do that, too. And so I am going to support this and assist Senator Baack as far as keeping an eye on the department's attempts. In fact, I am willing to say I will even try to help you folks, this goes to the department, if you want to come and ask me, are we doing better in rural areas. I would much rather work with you on that basis than to have to come in here and bash you on the floor to get your attention. So I want to support the Governor's commitments that she has apparently made to Senator Baack to try to make those field offices work. My preference, frankly, still is one of a philosophical difference about how you do rural development. But you have made the decision, as a body, this year anyway that you want to do field offices, and that is fine. I respect that. And so let's try to make that system work and let's assist the Governor in what I believe is a genuine interest in trying to want to make this department work. So I am going to support the bill and work with anybody else interested this year and next year, not only to try to make that department perform effectively in rural development initiatives, but will bring you back more initiatives yet again next year that I think again will perhaps help us do the difficult task of rural development. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. Speaker and members, I am also going to support this bill, and I would like to get a message to Roger Christianson, and I am all for him, I am all behind him. I like his Danish heritage, et cetera, but I want him to keep close tabs on them field offices and get some action out of them. We will give you all the support we can give you, and I know that if we do that, why you will produce. So I am supporting the bill as I stated earlier. Thank you.