

\$100,000...at the most \$100,000 to leverage...to leverage federal and block grants for that total cost. I think it needs to be pointed out, hope the body understands that and, for that reason, I think the \$100,000 that we now have in is far better than Senator Coordsen's total removal of the cap. Maybe if those that are interested are interested in bumping it up a little bit, we could look at that, but taking the cap totally off, I think, would be very unwise and I strongly oppose it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand and support Senator Coordsen's amendment and I would like to ask Senator Coordsen a couple of questions if I could. Maybe Senator Moore also. Senator Coordsen, I have been...I visited this morning with the person who is the Hastings Economic Development Corporation's Director and he did...he was originally and, of course, he still is, you know, has a direct pipeline to DEC or the Department of Economic Development, I mean, and he told me that there were six communities that exceeded a 100,000 per program for that specific project. That's what you understand, correct?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Uh-huh.

SENATOR SMITH: I have been looking for Roger Kristensen and I can't see him so I don't know. We have Senator Moore who is saying that included federal dollars. I can only tell you that that's what I was told that they did exceed. And the reasons given for no cap on that at that amount is the fact that we don't know what companies may be looking in the future at Nebraska. We don't know what size those companies need or will be or what their needs may be. There would be a variance among all of them and I guess I don't support the idea of restricting the amount that they would use because they don't, themselves, know until they need it, I don't imagine. Can...Senator Moore, could you answer a question for me, please? Has there been a cap on this before? Prior to this time, had they placed a cap?

SENATOR MOORE: No.

SPEAKER SMITH: So what is the importance as far as you're concerned? I realize that you don't want all the money spent in one place but has there been something shown in DED that they did use their funds unwisely in that way?