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LB 1184

with the rails, we're having difficulty with bus service, and, of course, we're having difficulty with keeping the population status quo in rural Nebraska. And these types of issues are the things that will help us keep rural Nebraska vital. So I would certainly support this legislation and urge you to do the same. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Robak, please, followed by Senator Haberman.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say that I also am a co-sponsor of this bill, and I think we need to concentrate on putting together a system within the state that unifies the basic cities within the state. I live in Columbus, and this may not necessarily...it may or may not include Columbus, but I think if they come close to serving the needs of Grand Island to Scottsbluff, or Hastings to Scottsbluff, or Norfolk to Scottsbluff, basically we could have access to those airlines and those airlines to our market. In Columbus we have four international firms, six national firms, and a host of other industries that do business right in Columbus, and I think we're a vital portion of the state's economy, and we want to continue to be. But I think we need to be bridged together with the other communities in the state. Thank you. I support the measure.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, that won't be necessary. Senator Scofield, would you care to close on the advancement of the bill?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Only very briefly, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the members here for their interest in this bill and their support for the bill. I think the level of concern that the Legislature is expressing here today for transportation issues in general, and the planning that we will set in motion with this bill to enhance intrastate air service may be one of the most significant things that we'll do as a Legislature in some time, to position Nebraska to be in a healthy place for the future, whether it be for purposes of international trade, whether it be for purposes of tourism, whether it's just for the convenience of our citizens, or the ability to better serve the