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SENATOR BAACK: It is that, and I think the DED is a little...feels a little bit better in working with them once they are statutorily set, and the...and the...and geographically defined in statute. I think they feel a little bit more easy working with them and using some of their monies for development in those areas.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, thank you very much.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members. About 11 years ago, I worked on some of this. We tried to define districts. We have a district in southeast Nebraska that I have been involved in previous to coming here. And this is an effort that in many ways is ahead of its time and considering the emphasis today on economic development and the local grass-roots efforts and I strongly endorse this concept. I don't think all districts across the state are organized at this time, but this does provide the formality for them to do it, and if there is money available in the future, it provides the shell for that to be distributed, but even more importantly, many of these now are self-sustaining based on local dues, and using the grant process from the federal...using the administration...administrative money from federal grants. So I strongly endorse this concept and feel it is...it is a vital leg in economic development and has been used successfully until now, even before the establishment of the rural commission and other forms of economic development. This has been a very good forum of self help by regions in the last 10, 15 years. So I strongly endorse this, and would also be wary of state funding at this point which we recognize...I'd urge no...no one to be worried about potential funding immediately in the future because it would be another act or another process, but this is...this is a process that we can provide self help for communities and regions across the state now.

SENATOR WARNER: Seeing no further lights, Senator Baack, do you wish to close on your motion to advance?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Chairman and colleagues. Just very briefly, I think that Senator Wehrbein has stated it very well, too, that this is...this is the kind of economic development I think that really can help in the rural areas because it is...it is the grass-roots kind of economic development that I think is