

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, I'm satisfied. Thank you very much.

SENATOR VRTISKA: All right, thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to support LB 144. This is...I have supported economic development issues in the past but this is economic development for small communities. Mostly what we have done in the past with LB 270, 775, has been for large communities, large businesses and I think this is a chance where the small communities to get together. It requires cooperation of small communities to work together and maybe regional working together, different cities like down at Falls City and Auburn and so forth working together for economic development in the area and I think we need to give it a chance. I think we need to work and provide an incentive because demographics that we heard last year when we were having the hearings in the Revenue Committee that most of the people are leaving and coming into the larger areas of the state and I think we need to encourage people to stay in the smaller communities of the state so I do support this LB 144.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could ask Senator Vrtiska a couple of questions, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator, do I understand that the rules and regulations have not been developed yet on this?

SENATOR VRTISKA: That's right.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay.

SENATOR VRTISKA: But I'd like to add if you don't mind..

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Is there any...in the bill itself is there a population restriction or do you anticipate that there will be a population restriction in the rules and regulations?