

followed by Senators Pirsch and Maurstad.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I too rise in support of LB 144 and very quickly from my point of view it's being involved in economic development in the past and looking at more regional concepts and people working together, it's looking at combining, number one, your resources as far as monetary goes, it's also looking at your expertise. There are a lot of small communities and even larger ones, a lot of different entities be they government, nonprofit, that are out there trying to accomplish something in the area of raising money in their area, jobs, getting things done and they're all going in their separate directions and I see a lot of duplication happening. What I think this bill does is offer the carrot. It gives them some incentive to sit down and evaluate a little bit more of where they are wanting to go collectively, to see more regional efforts and to be able to get much more accomplished with the same amount of people. Many of them are volunteers and also resources that if they can combine those, focus and learn to plan and collectively decide to do something that this carrot being out there that says if you will learn to sit down and work together, look at boundary lines that are expanded, that we can do away with some of the duplication that is out there, we can better utilize our resources which are again people and money and that the state is willing to come in and be a partner at that. And that you will find, I think, in the area of economic development throughout the state, will be enhanced and will be increased simply because the state has come in and offered to be a partner in a new way that they currently were not a partner in the past. For that reason, I will support the advancement of the LB 144.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions also of Senator Vrtiska as I've been listening to the debate and didn't listen at first, but have gotten involved through these last couple of speakers. Senator Vrtiska, if you would yield.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Who is actually going to...how is this actually going to work from the Department of Economic Development? They