

like to indicate that two miles, in my view, would be unreasonable. It would not provide the flexibility needed to be able to land a project of this size. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I rise to reiterate my opposition to the Jones amendment and I think the primary argument against it is that the two-mile restriction suggested by this amendment is more restrictive than the restriction than we have in current law. And I think, for that reason alone, this is not a...this is not a good amendment. Beyond that, I think the flexibility that is mentioned by Senator Maurstad is of extreme importance. I think that, obviously, when you're dealing with a project of this magnitude when you're talking about bringing this number of jobs, this amount of investment into the state, then I think ten miles is by no means unreasonable at all. And, certainly, that's a portion of the bill that we need to retain and I would urge you to oppose the Jones amendment. With that, I would give my time to Senator Matzke.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Matzke, you have about four minutes.

SENATOR MATZKE: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I have explained to Senator Jones why I feel I have to oppose his amendment and I do it strictly from a rural and a small-town point of view. In Sidney, we have an ordinance depot that's about eight or nine miles outside of the city limits and that's somewhat characteristic of other communities that have either former ordinance depots or airports that are beyond the two-mile range. Now I'm not going to kid myself, the Sidneys and the Grand Islands are not in the running, but we're establishing a precedence here on this type of industrial development legislation. I think it is very important to realize that many of the areas that might be utilized in industrial development in the future are going to lie five to ten miles away from population centers. In our particular case, our ordinance depot was built in the 1940s. It certainly qualifies in certain respects as a blighted area. It already has industrial development. No Micron is ever going to come to Sidney, but if we extend this thinking as a matter of precedence to future acts, I think we unduly restrict ourselves to the two-mile limit and that would be to the disadvantage of rural areas and smaller communities. So I would urge that, as I've explained to Senator