

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute. Oh, thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. Most of what I had to say was said by Senator Chambers. I was astonished by the constitutional scholars who rose and said if we did Senator Coordsen's amendment that this would constitute special legislation. If they had thought about it, as Senator Chambers suggested that they should, there are large chunks of the statutory framework in the State of Nebraska that are unconstitutional and I think that Douglas County, let alone the City of Omaha, has frequently had pieces of legislation passed that are only applicable to it. We have passed, and that doesn't even count what the concept that they were arguing for in opposing Senator Coordsen's amendment, they are saying that if there was only one company in the United States, or perhaps maybe even only one company in the whole world that would meet Senator Coordsen's requirements, then that would be special legislation. Well, I would suggest to you that if we have only one city or one county in the state, for example, and it applies to them, that I think you can see where the argument tends to fall apart. I don't think 2,000 or 3,000 or even 775 employees has much in the way of constitutional implications in the context of this bill. What does seem to me to be more important is that if the bill is designed to have a payback to the State of Nebraska in terms of the activity, economic activity, that employees will bring to this state, then that is an important element in our considerations; how many employees must one of these projects bring to the state in order to have an adequate payback for the investment that the state and the local political subdivisions are making on the project. If that is 2,000, then that is the number we ought to have. I don't think anybody has told us that 500 is the number that is necessary to cause the payback and, in fact, the discussion is about much higher numbers that Micron is going to bring to us, and that Micron, specifically, will pay back the State of Nebraska and the political subdivisions. Senator Coordsen's amendment is less than the Micron, what the Micron project is supposed to bring. I think it is entirely reasonable. I don't believe it is unconstitutional and I would urge its adopted.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Chambers, on the Coordsen amendment.