

Nebraska. They might have 101 employees.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But, Senator Engel, that was a good line to tell when you were trying to get us to go for the bill, in the first place, but that language talking about keeping these businesses competitive is to be stricken from the bill pursuant to an amendment you are offering, so this idea of having the bill there for businesses that are in competition where the State of Nebraska is in competition with another state for them is being stripped from the bill. This is why...and that's all I'll ask you right now because I don't want to just interrogate you question after question. That's why I say I'm skeptical about this bill. When I wanted to amend some of the intent language to streamline it, I cut out that language that talked about these companies having to be...where they happen to be in competition. People who are for the bill, led by Senator Maurstad, among others, I remember him by name, wanted that language left in the bill so I changed my amendment to leave that language in about the competition from another state because the ones who want the bill insisted that it be left in. Senator Beutler, taking them at their word, indicated that that would have to be one of the factors considered when an application is before this group. Now the ones who support this bill are saying they want to strike the very language that they insisted I leave in the bill. We were told it's for small businesses. Now we're talking about businesses hiring up to 250 people and a business of that size can get up to \$500,000 from the fund. This bill is a shell game. Senator Engel may not have been let in on the shell game and that is to make it more convincing. You leave some of the players out of the back room negotiations and machinations so that they genuinely are innocent and unknowledgeable about what has happened. They are in a position which allows for what the intelligence community calls deniability. You can deny that you know this and be telling the truth and the reason you don't know is because they don't tell you. But if you look at the facts that are presented to us in the bill which is now before us, we have gotten away totally from the idea of helping those small businesses that need just a little boost. We're not talking about the mom and pop operation unless they have been as prolific in breeding as rabbits traditionally are. Two hundred and fifty employees is not a mom and pop operation. Either the bill is aimed to help small businesses or it is not. And if all you want to do is put more gravy on the meat of these big companies, simply say so and fight for the bill on the basis of what it really is intended to