

SENATOR ENGEL: And the decision to be made right now, instead of waiting for this Legislature to reconvene, the cat might be out of the bag by the time we convene and we've lost the business.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Because I only have one minute, I'll turn my light back on.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens, on the amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Warner, it's one of those...or, Senator Wehrbein, it's one of those quick decisions. I rise, based on the information I was just given, in support of the amendment, and again it kind of carries on to the amendment that was rejected that I was pushing not too long ago, but probably Senator Chambers' is more direct to the point and would do more good than the limiting of the 250,000 as far as the ceiling. You still have the 500,000 ceiling but what Senator Chambers is trying to do, in my opinion, is what we, in Nebraska, at least in the rural areas, I can't speak for Omaha and Lincoln, but in the rural areas one of the things that we are seeing is a tremendous economic stress in our small communities, the local pharmacy trying to stay open, the local grocery store trying to stay open, you know, doctors or whatever trying to...communities trying to get the medical services, a library, whatever the case may be, or might be the local restaurant is struggling to stay on to meet some of the requirements that they have to do and they're base simply isn't strong enough to do so. I know, in my area, we've lost in two smaller towns two restaurants, not that in Lincoln and Omaha that would be a big deal but when it's the only restaurant in town it is kind of a big deal. It's the kind of a place where people could go at some point. What Senator Chambers is doing is what we have talked about in economic development in my part of the state for, I'm going to guess, 15 years and that is it's one thing, and it's a good thing, to try to attract the Mercedes-Benz into the state. It's one thing and it's a good thing that we try to bring the Microns into the State of Nebraska. It's another thing and again a good thing that we try to bring in the Pfizers and we try to expand the large businesses that we have into the State of Nebraska. But the one thing that we've argued that we need to do for rural Nebraska is to somehow establish a support mechanism so that we can maintain that which we already have, not only maintain that which we have