

but allow them to grow, and economic development is not just bringing in new people. Economic development is also stabilizing and expanding that base that we have and in small towns in rural Nebraska that is probably the key to their economic survival, expanding and stabilizing the existing businesses that are trying to offer goods and services in a sparsely populated area. These types of grants and loans are crucial to that and in the State of Nebraska we should have a multifaceted approach. We need to have the 775s, though there's certainly always the debate, I think those were a good thing. We need to have the \$6 million that we still have put aside for employee training that might be used at a moment's notice to bring a business in. We need to have the Micron types of legislation but the other facet to the economic development in our state needs to be how can we stabilize and begin to grow, provide growth incentives for the small business person in Nebraska trying to make ends meet? And I think that's one of the frustrations that we've had in the state if you talk to people in businesses, is they are struggling every day to meet the bottom line,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...in many cases, not meeting it, when we're passing out, not passing out, when we're offering incentives to bring in another type of business that, obviously, will help our tax base more, on the other hand. Senator Chambers' amendment I support because it goes along the concept of acknowledging what we have out there and saying we want you to be stable, we want you to grow and that's as much a part in economic development, if not more, in rural Nebraska than any other part that you can talk about. And I really believe that Senator Engel and Senator Wickersham should support this amendment because it makes their bill not only better, but it focuses the bill where it needs to be...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...in their part of the state.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: I'd like to respond, Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I'd like to respond in part to Senator Bernard-Stevens' comments. I'd like to thank him for the last