

employees in the state work in operations that employ less than 100 people. You would have the ability with this amendment still to inject these types of dollars into existing business or bring in new businesses that represent 95 percent of the work force that is out there. Now I think Nebraska might be a little high in comparison to the national average, but I would harken to bet that it isn't all that far off, maybe another 10 percent of...so closer to 85 percent on a national level, all businesses are represented by businesses that employ less than 100 people. We all know that it is small business that is the engine that runs our economy and the...not only in this state, but in some of the United States. Small businesses are the ones that employ people and to try to attract, I think, the very large businesses is laudable and we've done that in other areas with the economic development bills that have passed this body, but I think that this is a very, not only appropriate amendment, but I think it is a very smart amendment because if we start looking at the companies that have the ability to move, we look at the companies if we're trying to attract folks to come in, it is going to be those small to midsize companies that fit within the 95 percent of all companies that exist in Nebraska. They are the ones that can do it for the least amount of money. They can make the shift, in many cases, if Nebraska can offer them the kind of package and if we have a SEED program that is available that would allow for that, and these are just additional dollars over and above what other programs we might have in place. But I clearly believe because of the fact that you have a program that you're putting in place that has limited dollars, we cap the number of dollars over a couple years that are made available, we give discretion to the Governor which I can live with, but we also ought to look at the types of companies that we're dealing with and that's what both the Bernard-Stevens amendment before in terms of limiting the dollar amount which I think you've got a better argument against, but I can't, when I look at the numbers that come from Dun and Bradstreet, based on 1995 figures that Senator Chambers passed out here, that you would still have in the net 95 percent of all businesses that are out there that would be eligible and that clearly would be the type that would be attracted to Nebraska if that's what these dollars would be used for. With that, again I rise in support of the amendment. I think it's the type of amendment that allows the proposal like 425 to garner some more support instead of opposition to its passage over to Final Reading. With that, I would urge adoption of Senator Chambers' amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.