

that would be helped by this bill are really the heart and soul of what we can offer in Nebraska, Nebraska is never going to be the kind of state that's going to have a multitude of gigantic companies coming in here, wanting to hire 500 employees or 5,000 employees. The foundation of our state and economy as we move ahead is the small company, the 10, 20, 30, 40, 50-person company. And we need to encourage as much of that as we can. This is a relatively small amount of money which I think is an investment. Any business person, anybody with a business of any kind, whether it be agricultural, small manufacturing, will tell you that sometimes you have to invest money in order to see a return and to make money and to make progress; this is a...this is one of those times. The amount of money may be not very large by the time we get done and we get this advanced from Select File, if we can't get the rest of the budget fine-tuned to the point that we're comfortable with this, it may have to be bracketed at that point. But at this point, I'm going to be against the bracket motion and would encourage the body to consider defeating it and advancing the bill and holding it on Final Reading until we see where we're at with the rest of the budget. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Beutler, to close on the motion to bracket.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hall, members of the Legislature, I appreciate everything that's been said in favor of the bill. But I'd like to make just two points in closing, one is we have done a great deal for economic development this year. We have passed three Micron bills, we are going to be funding, in all probability, \$16 million in production credits for ethanol, we are going to get rid of the throw-back rule, in all probability, Senator Vrtiska has a bill that's substantive in nature. In my opinion, and I think Senator Warner would confirm this, since I came in the Legislature in 1978, this is either the best or the second best year for economic development in that whole period of time. We have done a lot for economic development this year, a whole lot. Only the year that 775 was passed was arguably...I wasn't here then so I don't have a very good...I can't make that comparison very well. But I know that arguably that year was a better year for economic development. But beyond that, there haven't been any other years that even approach this year or that year when 775 was passed in terms of what we all traditionally think of as economic development, narrowly defined as those expenditures which are direct. Everybody, we'd all