

would seem to me to be exceedingly difficult to administer at the work, and I would have to oppose it.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. First of all, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I agree that there can certainly be a difference of opinion on whether this is the right time or not. It happens to be my opinion that this isn't the best time to be looking at amending or making changes to LB 775. Secondly, I think it is important, so far the only speakers addressing this issue have been from Lincoln and Omaha. People need to recognize that as the handout that was provided to us by the introducer of the bill, we are talking about UP employees all across the state, and as been discussed in the past, we are talking about LB 775 programs that are currently going on all across the state. This is not just a Lincoln and Omaha issue. The, Senator Chambers made a comment that piqued my interest and sometimes people do to him and pique his interest, and he indicated, he made a comment along the lines, and I am paraphrasing somewhat that, you know, this would help people coming, and I think he was referring to Omaha, coming to Omaha for a job, and that...that's good. There certainly might be people that will, as the trend has been the last 30-some years depopulate from rural Nebraska, primarily, to the population centers of Lincoln and Omaha and a couple of the other cities in Nebraska. And that, certainly I don't have a quarrel with that at all, but that, obviously, would be my second choice. I would rather that my friends and neighbors and constituents, family members, that their first choice would be able to stay near their family and friends and stay where they grew up, to be able to have a job close by, one of the towns that I represent. And 775, as I've indicated on a number of occasions, has created a lot of jobs in my area; a lot of them for second income, individuals that are working the farm, want to keep the farm, and are able to move in and have a second job or their spouse being able to have a job as a result of some of the 775 projects. I think there is an opportunity for some of the jobs being created under 1368 to occur in some of rural Nebraska that would certainly provide these opportunities to them also as they did under LB 775. So I think we need to keep, in fact what I think the introducer has tried to do, and that's that this is a statewide, a statewide issue. Finally, there are jobs available in this state for individuals with skills. I