

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. First of all, I want to commend Senator Brashear because I think he's done an excellent job relative to this...this particular bill and, quite frankly, I think he's done what a good state senator will do, and that's respond in an appropriate fashion to a situation that's brought to him by a constituent or, for that fact...for that matter, any member of the state. This...obviously this is one of those technical type of situations that would not arise until someone goes and tries to implement the legislation. And when they recognize that there was a glitch in it, which obviously there is, as in many other circumstances, they're going to take that to a member and say, can you help us with this particular situation? This is a very valid issue. It's a very...a very good proposal. I'm glad that we have a member in the Legislature that has the expertise of Senator Brashear to work through all of the technical aspects of this...this piece of legislation. He's done a good job of being fair and trying to correct some of the deficiencies that might exist...might exist in other...in other incentive packages, so that now this bill, LB 928, that we introduced last year, is certainly better if we adopt this than...than what it was before. I rise in support of the legislation. If we can't address the situation of UP, who's been a longstanding good corporate citizen of this state going back into the last century, then we might as well...we might as well scrap LB 928 and LB 929 and LB 930. We might as well scrap LB 775. We might as well get rid of the Department of Economic Development. We might as well bust up all of the economic development partnerships that are existing out all across the state that are trying to keep this state vibrant, that's trying to stop the depopulation of this state, that are providing good jobs for the members of this state, citizens of this state. If we can't do this, we shouldn't be doing all the rest of that. I think this is certainly the magnitude that I see in the significance of this...this piece of legislation. Now I don't think anybody would want to do the things that I described. I certainly don't. I don't want a real estate agent have to be hired and find out what they're going to do with all the empty buildings in our recently filled industrial park, and I'm sure that there are individuals all across the state that feel...that feel the same way. So I, as I indicated, hope that the members will support LB 1368, and will just end by once again congratulating Senator Brashear for his efforts in this endeavor.