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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, and, Senator Matzke, I support the bill and I intend to support the bill. I do have...I do have an area of the bill I want to discuss and I have some...I have some concerns and some suggestions and I don't want to let this opportunity go by without raising them. In the last couple of years the Transportation Telecommunications Committee has looked at telework as much as we could. We had a...we had a tremendous hearing out in North Platte, Nebraska, where we had great participation from western Nebraska with regard to their desire to participate in telework. We have a couple of projects that are going on in the state that...that state that the administration has supported and...and are good examples of what can be done. As I look at this bill and I look at the minimum investment involved, particularly when I look at the...the lower populated counties and I see a minimum investment of \$100,000, \$200,000, \$400,000, I see no reasonable opportunity for this bill to provide incentive for telework. We have in Benkelman right now a pilot project that I think DEQ is participating in. There are four positions there. The investment is absolutely minimal. They have told me their total budget was under \$4,000. They're creating \$9-an-hour jobs. I suggest to you that is a good thing for Benkelman. I think that kind of activity, that kind of economic activity, is one of the more real things that is possible in rural Nebraska. It is one thing to get companies to move their headquarters to build significant infrastructure out in rural Nebraska and it is difficult to get them to do that and I measure that some by the terrific incentives that we have to provide them. I'm going to suggest that with the use of...of telecommunications and telework and we have people there that are absolutely craving to go to work for \$9 an hour, that there is a reservoir of talent and workers that are virtually untapped. And I think that we should not let this opportunity go by without examining whether or not we could massage this bill slightly to change the criteria a little bit for telecommunications and telework. Because you do not need, generally, multimillion dollar investments to accomplish telework. But that would be, in my view, one of the quickest, one of the most painless ways to increase the economic base and the income level in many parts of Nebraska. As I look at the