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March 23, 2000 LB 936

amendments to LB 936, Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in support of the Beutler amendment and am a cosponsor and supporter of LB 936. Okay, as to the Beutler amendment, I support it because I do not fear it. I think we always ought to be willing in a reasonable time frame to look at and to reexamine what we are doing and why we are doing it. As to LB 936, I think there are all kinds of good common sense reasons plain on the face of it to support LB 936. It is more than critically important that we do not have two Nebraskas. It is urgent that we commit ourselves to not having two Nebraskas. And as specifically as we may want to be supportive and need to be supportive of agriculture as our number one industry, it is also important, and particularly Senator Dierks pointed this out, that we be supportive of our small towns. I regard this as a focus upon an improvement or a refined focus of LB 775 type legislation for our smaller communities. And I appreciate Senator Schimek's concern with wages. Wages are important and it is important that we keep raising the bar and improving the wage that is paid, but in my life I have noticed that you must have a business before you can have jobs, and you must have an employer before you can have an employee, and it's in "incentivising" and building businesses and creating jobs that we gain employers who can employ people in jobs, and as we aggregate that critical mass, then we can have the economic dynamics that drive jobs up, drive wages up, and make it possible to pay everyone more. I intend to learn much over the coming months and years from my bench mate Senator Raikes with regard to models, but until he has me better informed, and I'm starting a long ways back, I have to use common sense. I have heard model after model cited as proving that LB 775 isn't what I know it to be. I have lived through an economic revitalization of the state of Nebraska. I saw the inertia and the malaise that existed prior to what is now an economic boom that we could become overly complacent about. So until I become more skilled in models and critically analyzing whether the models are, in fact, accurate, I have to rely upon my powers of observation and understanding. And I, for one, am thankful that we are where we are in terms of economics in the state of Nebraska and its dynamism, but I do recognize that it needs to be spread to greater Nebraska, to our smaller communities, and