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lives of rural communities. This is intended to help not only neighborhood groups, who oftentimes are like a small community, but also the rural communities that, again, do not necessarily have the money in their budget to do some of the smaller improvement projects that really do improve the life of the community. What this is, this is a bottom-up program. It's not top-down. It's not something coming in from the state and the state saying, here, we're going to lay this on top of the area and we're going to administer it from the top and pretty much tell you what you should do to develop economically. What it does is it gives the responsibility to the people who live there, the people who either live in the neighborhoods or the people who live in the small rural communities. They plan the program, they apply for the funding, and they carry out the program. Current grants are for large-scale programs and high-dollar amounts. What this does is give smaller programs the funding to start making a difference. And that's what this is all about, in the end, is improving the lives of all Nebraskans. And we certainly should acknowledge that the lives of urban Nebraskans in neighborhoods and also rural Nebraskans should have equal access to this kind of money. We do intend that they are able to revitalize declining neighborhoods and small communities. We do intend that we should maintain the integrity of stable neighborhoods and small communities, and we do believe that we should strengthen existing neighborhoods and small communities. And as I said, we had a number of different entities that came in and testified in support of this. As I said, Center for Rural Affairs and the Rural Development Commission. The League of Municipalities came in and testified in support of it. The Coalition of Nebraska Children and Families came in in support of it because they believe that what this does is help improve communities and neighborhoods, which in turn helps the lives of families and children. So I would ask that my colleagues support this amendment, because it is intended to help small communities, it is intended to help neighborhoods, and it's intended to allow them to have access to small amounts of money to do the smaller projects that they are able to do which do indeed improve their lives. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Kiel. On the Kiel amendment, Senator Wehrbein.