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February 12, 2003 LB 53

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein, Senator Raikes.
Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the
body. I rise in support of the amendment, and also the bill.
I'd really thank Senator Smith for bringing this forward. We
had testimony the day of the hearing that, as you all know, in
the rural areas we are particularly losing our student numbers.
One of the directors, executive directors of the ESU 5 pointed
out that they had lost about 800 students in the last seven
years. So I think we're going to continually see some mergers
among the ESUs. And this bill and the amendment will certainly
help in forming and encouraging and "incentizing" these ESUs to
merge, and still provide the many services that they do for our
schools across this state. With that, thank you, and I'd turn
the rest of my time back over to the Chair.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Any further
discussion on the committee amendments to LB 53? Seeing none,
Senator Raikes indicates he waives closing. The question then
before us is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 53.
All in favor vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of
committee amendments.

SPEAKER BROMM: Committee amendments are adopted. Any further
amendments on the bill, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I'd urge
the advancement of this bill. It... I thank Senator Smith for
bringing it. I think it's a good policy change, or revision, or
update, or however you want to describe it. But I think it's
good policy. It did come out of the committee unanimously. So
again, I urge your support. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Seeing no further