

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 25, 2003      LB 608

And I think the businesses could probably better afford the wages in the rural areas than they could in the urban areas, where the cost of doing business is probably greater than it is in the rural areas, for a number of reasons, the cost of land, and the cost of labor for building facilities, and all of those kinds of things. So I don't get this, let's not treat the rural areas like we treat the urban areas in this state. And I...it brings to mind the whole issue of state employees, and how at one point there was an attempt to pay rural road workers, I think it was...I don't know if my memory is right or not...less than their urban counterparts. And all kinds of disagreements broke forth. I don't think it's fair to separate urban and rural areas. I passed out an article from this morning's newspapers. And I don't know if you've had a chance to look at it. But it is talking about a possible petition drive to repeal LB 775 or to change some of the provisions of LB 775. I'm not sure that they're clear on what they're going to do, or if they're going to do it for certain. But the group is talking about the Legislature and the lack of...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...movement on this issue of LB 775. And I want to...I want you to...call your attention to the fact that this is not a constitutional amendment that they would be circulating. It's a statutory petition that they would be circulating. So it would only take 76,000 signatures in 37 counties, as opposed to about 110,000-plus that it takes for a constitutional amendment. I think they'll be successful in getting the signatures. I predict they will be successful in getting the signatures if this Legislature doesn't do something more convincing than it looks as if we're doing right now. I would firmly advise voting against this amendment and voting for the Revenue Committee amendment, even though it probably doesn't go far enough. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. On with discussion. Senator Redfield,...

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank...