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SENATOR CUDABACK: ...followed by by Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the body. I want to remind the body that we're not talking about a living wage that cuts across the entire spectrum of a company, or certainly a whole urban area, or a rural area, because in fact that kind of statutory requirement, whether it's a city council, whether it's a state legislature, setting a minimum wage would actually impact people that are not on this paper that you have before you. We're talking here on this paper about families, single parents with small dependents. We're talking about wage earners that are adults, full-time workers. We're not talking about the 16-year-old who just wants to go out and earn a little spending money part-time when they're still in high school. So we're not talking about that kind of a wage level. That's a different discussion entirely, when you're talking about a living wage, a minimum wage that is higher than what companies could afford to pay for unskilled labor, part-time labor. We are talking about full-time employees here. We're talking about only the project. We're not even talking about the entire company. The LB 775 companies would not have to pay this wage to all the employees in their company. They would only have to pay the wage that we're discussing for the people in the project. I think that's an important distinction. And certainly that made it more comfortable for me to support this proposal in the Revenue Committee. However, the one thing that I did find difficult to support as a member of the Revenue Committee was requiring this salary for, in fact, the rural tier. Because a couple of years ago, we put together a bill, the Rural Economic Development Act, and we thought we had done great work. We wanted to "incent" better paying jobs to rural Nebraska. And we required those projects to pay a higher rate than... well, we actually had a requirement. There had never been a requirement before. The problem was that we had set the rate so high that in fact no one used it. So we didn't help rural Nebraska at all. And that was my concern as we were discussing this piece in the Revenue Committee this year, that we would in fact have a rural tier that would be usable, that would actually bring companies into those localities that need the jobs so very, very desperately. Now, the other piece, when I look at this, though, I have to say that it's hard to consider