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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...this Legislature should not enact a law which, by its terms, differentiates between our citizens and makes some better and others worse in terms of how we value them. Money, compensation, is how people have come to believe that individuals are valued in this society. How much money do you make? That determines how much you think that person is worth. And as long as I'm in this Legislature, nobody can convince me that because somebody lives in a small town, they live on the edge of a meadow, they live in the heart of a forest, that those people, by virtue of that, are less valuable; essentially there's something different between them and the rest of us who don't live in these areas. I will never accept that and I will never be a part of a scheme designed to say certain people in this state...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...are worth less than others. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Madam Speaker, members. This discussion is far-reaching, I guess. As a rural senator, I need to make at least a few comments. Our population in rural Nebraska has dropped. There's no question about it. And I look around and I say, why? Well, farm productivity, agricultural productivity has changed dramatically. I look at the places we now operate, and we've dozed in places, burned places, they're gone. All these farmsteads used to have, you know, people in them and children. They're not there anymore. Why? Because of our increased productivity. We can do now with two people what might have taken 20 just 30 years ago, and it reflects then on into these small towns. They don't have the implement dealer or the car dealer. I'm thinking in terms of my local town there. We don't have any of those anymore. The people that are left in ag production, and I admit it, we bought a major piece of equipment out of Iowa and Kansas, and we don't buy these things