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LB 608

just trying to think of various towns, but those smaller towns that just coincidentally happen to be in the same county, are disqualified or are preempted from receiving benefits under this plan. So AM2006 states that the activity could occur in the counties of 25,000 population or less, "or in any city in this state with a population of less than 15,000 inhabitants located within a county with a population of less than 55,000 inhabitants according to the most recent federal decennial census." And so it uses a lot of the same criteria before, but this modifies the population requirement and I urge its adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: I'm sorry. Could I ask Senator Smith to describe his amendment one more time?

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may. Senator Smith, would you respond?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes. Senator Landis, this would, instead of just the counties of 25,000 population, this would say, or in any city in this state with a population of less than 15,000 located within a county with a population less than 55,000.

SENATOR LANDIS: Am I being called upon, or was I being asked a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Your light was on, Senator.

SENATOR LANDIS: Oh, it was. Okay. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the Bromm amendment affects 11 counties. The 11 counties it affects includes Scotts Bluff County, but they are essentially Hastings, Kearney, Fremont, Omaha, Grand Island, Lincoln, North Platte, Norfolk, Columbus, Bellevue, and Scottsbluff. Those cities dominate those 11 counties. Think about where LB 775 projects are now taking place. If one needed a rural tier to go beyond where LB 775 is now going for urban Nebraska, it would start at below that. Any number is arbitrary, but if you think about it, those are 11 centers of economic activity. They have LB 775 and a rural program isn't designed for those communities. What about towns in those