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next speaker is Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the Legislature, I'm going to rise in support of AM2006, but I'm also a cosponsor of the underlying amendment, which is AM2005, and I will support AM2005 with or without AM2006. But I do think that there are some points that Senator Smith does bring up. We're not only talking about how do we encourage those counties that I represent, the eight counties that are in between North Platte and Scottsbluff. I think that's the essential part of this that we're talking about--how do we bring that growth to those communities? And some of them are benefiting just from the sake of where they're located and I think what Senator Bromm, Senator Landis and others have accomplished with AM2005 kind of brings things into perspective about how we can be successful in encouraging growth in our rural communities. I do, however, think that Senator Smith does have a legitimate concern with his amendment about where that number is and what that number should be. Because the economic engine is there, you continually have to put gas in that engine to keep it running to make sure that all those cylinders are hitting, and I think that in some situations you can make that argument for those centers like Scottsbluff, North Platte, and down the road while we bring along the smaller rural counties that would benefit from the underlying amendment. So I'm going to support AM2006; however, I'm also going to support AM2005 with or without that. And I think that we are truly going to a direction that I think is something that's been needed, and that is you set a level that people can actually accomplish. I think a lot of times our mentality is let's try and find the perfect business out there and let's have them invest all this and then hopefully they'll come, and then the reality is, is that we have some businesses already in our rural communities that could benefit from Senator Bromm's amendment, and I think it would be a huge benefit to rural Nebraska to see some of that growth and some of that assistance be available to them after they've met the qualifications outlined. So I think there is some value in both amendments. However, for my district along, AM2005 benefits me, but because of the fact that I'm sandwiched between Scottsbluff and North Platte, I also think there is some value in the amendment that Senator Smith does offer us and I will be