

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

May 19, 2003

LB 608

working there in those small towns, it would certainly help. Rather than sending the employees or the people that live in those small communities to a larger city within your district and then leaving them...leaving their money there before they come home, at least you would keep those people in those communities and use their discretionary dollars to spend in those communities and help them. We've got small towns, 1,000-1,500 population, that are just having a terrible time meeting their obligations with their water system, with their sewage system, street repair. I know some small towns that are anticipating not even opening their swimming pools this summer for the simple fact that they're broke. Those dollars need to be spent in those small towns. They need to be spent there and so that it keeps the people there. The proximity of the county I represent is very close to metropolitan area and I think that this is one way of revitalizing those smaller communities. A start-up of \$3,000 isn't a lot of money, but it's a heck of a lot of money if you don't have it and can't get it. But I think that anyone who has enough intestinal fortitude to spend those kind of dollars inside of a small city like that, or town, should be commended. And I think that that is the only way that we are going to keep rural Nebraska, the towns that have been the backbone of this state. We all know what's happening to the rural economy. It's not good. And we have people telling us more or less that forget about it, there's no way we can help, and that's disturbing to me to have people stand and say, well, rural Nebraska, we are not going to help you. That was mentioned last week. So I think that this is one way that we can put a little bit of a spark back into some of the smaller communities. This state wasn't built by metropolitan areas. It was built by small communities, farm communities, and if we can get a little manufacturing in some of those communities I think it will go a long way not only helping agriculture but helping the people within those towns. When agriculture is failing where do they go? They have to get off the farm or stay on the farm...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...and get a supplemental job somewhere. If we can create some of those and keep those small farms going,