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LB 608

SENATOR SMITH: That is correct, because it would need to be a county less than 25,000.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, what's the difference between the people inside that little town and the people outside that little town? I mean, I kind of...to the extent that this made sense to me, I kind of liked the idea of just taking the community as a whole. I'm having trouble understanding why you would kind of divide out towns from counties, and look at the towns differently from counties, when really the economic development is in the community. It's the county roads as well as the city roads that are going to make something work, for example. It...what is your purpose in not just expanding this to counties with 55,000 and smaller? That would have been the simplest way of doing this, for example. Why didn't you do it that way?

SENATOR SMITH: It is the position of many that communities, like Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte, and several others, aren't as in great a need as the surrounding communities of a lot of those cities.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, in that regard, for example, here in Lancaster County, the city of Lincoln is doing very well. I don't...this is not about the city of Lincoln. But there are certainly some smaller towns out away from Lincoln that aren't doing very well and are in the same...about the same condition as other agricultural communities. If we're going to try to distinguish which communities really need it and which don't, maybe we should make a distinction between Lincoln and the rest of Lancaster County. Would you be in favor of that?

SENATOR SMITH: I would look at various information, Senator Beutler. I guess I would need to know more details and how that would be delineated.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But you would probably look favorably on that, because they are rural communities that don't currently benefit from LB 775 particularly? Or at least, the further away they are from Lincoln, the less they benefit. Is that part of the rationale? I'm trying to get to the rationale of .