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LB 608

Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy, quite frankly. But \$2.5 million over the...over 88 or 89 counties is cutting it awful thin. In fact, it's cutting it pretty thin with what we're proposing. So I think the available resources, the choices on...let's target this towards the most rural counties, and those were the considerations. There's no scientific reason, but it is that rationale. And that's how the county population parameters were...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SPEAKER BROMM: ...arrived at. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne and Senator Bromm. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Raikes on the Smith amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I oppose Senator Smith's "me-too" amendment, for the obvious reason that it doesn't include me too. Waverly is a city in Lancaster County which is about 2,500 people. Just was announced that a manufacturer there, providing somewhere around two to three hundred jobs, is leaving town. So there's an economic development hole there to be filled. And this would not...Senator Smith's amendment, I think, would deem that Waverly was not a deserving recipient of this particular program. But it brings to mind a question about how the economic development effort in the state is meant to hang together. The director of economic development, Al Wenstrand's name was mentioned here. It seems to me one...or a question I have is that if a company were eligible for LB 775 benefits, and they could only do one program, they could either do this one or they could do LB 775, I'm guessing that LB 775 is a richer program. So that would suggest to me that you could have a scheme whereby everybody is entitled to the low-rung economic development program. If you are a bigger entity, if you're going to offer more jobs, if you're going to invest more money, then you can work your way up the chain. I wonder if that sort of an approach doesn't make more sense than this one, where you are arbitrarily setting numbers and counties and sizes of towns and all that kind of thing, which absolutely guarantees that you're going to include someplace that probably doesn't deserve