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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 608

Raikes. Senator Janssen, followed by Senator Stuhr and seven others.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. I had made the statement, the last time we discussed this, that I was going to be in support of Senator Smith's amendment. An investment of \$250,000 is really not a lot of money. And if you could add 15 jobs, or whatever the criteria is, in a smaller town, in a town with a population less than \$15,000 (sic), that is going to boost the economy of that smaller community. In the county that I represent, there are several larger companies that have took advantage of LB 775. But it really hasn't done a lot for the smaller communities, those with a population under 15,000. So it seems to me that this is a pretty good amendment. Not very often that I support an amendment of Senator Smith's. But in this case I'm going to, because I believe that he has struck upon...now that doesn't mean that every state that would be eligible for that is going to take advantage of it. In the first place, you have to have that investment of \$250,000. And during this...these economic times and what is happening in our smaller towns, I believe that there wouldn't be that many that take advantage of it. But those that did, it would be beneficial to those smaller communities. And to the people living there, the fact that...you know, 15 new jobs is pretty darn good in a small town. So with that, I, unless someone can change my mind, I do feel that this is important to rural Nebraska. And this is what we're looking at in these tough economic times. We need someone who will invest that small amount of money in a small community. So I'm going to listen to the rest of the debate. And unless I can find something that...something in the comments that excludes...would exclude this, why, I think it's very important that we listen to it and help Senator Smith with his amendment. With that, I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Bromm or Senator Landis or Senator Smith, whoever would want it. Senator Bromm, would you like the rest of my time?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, you have about two minutes, if you care to use them.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Janssen. And Senator