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LB 608

amendment, and I will vote for the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Beutler, there are no further lights on. You're recognized to close on AM2039, if you care to.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, again, this amendment simply establishes an \$8.70 minimum wage for the LB 775 program. And it parallels what we have done, what Senator Bromm has done for the rural program, in terms of having a minimum wage. I think it's almost a matter of basic fairness. I mean, how can you say to the employees of one group who gets benefits from the state of Nebraska...it's the same General Fund of the state of Nebraska...that they get this minimum wage, and then you say to another group of employees whose employers are getting benefits from that same General Fund, no, your workers don't get it? It's just elemental fairness. For those of you who are from the rural districts, I can see that you would want the program suggested in the Bromm amendment. You would naturally want it, and it should be. But if you really want it, you're not going to change your vote, you're going to vote for this. You're not going to change your vote because we put a minimum wage on the urban side, are you? And there are a bunch of us on the urban side who are certainly going to stick with it, if we get the urban minimum wage. So between the two of us, we ought to be able to do this no matter what. Together we can do it. So all we need to do is vote this in. Amendments will go away. We can all have something, a classic...a really classic legislative compromise, as opposed to a false compromise. And we can go on our way to other bills. So I hope you will look at this favorably now, as you looked upon it favorably during General File. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the closing on AM2039. The question before the body is, shall that amendment be adopted to AM2005?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I would ask for a call of the house.

SENATOR CUDABACK: There's been a request for a call of the