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LB 48

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...will bring fruit. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Baker, followed by Senator Bromm and Stuthman. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I did miss one scurrying out to the Rotunda. It was dealing with the gambling bill. So I have been out there three times this morning, if Senator Chambers was counting. We are at a crossroads here. We, in my own personal experience dealing with the Department of Economic Development, I have five LB 775 companies, counting the one that's building there now, five of them within 25 miles of where I live. I don't think there is any others in my eight counties, but five is a big chunk of employees, I'll tell you what, and adds a lot of value to some of our agriculture products. A sprinkler company out there, that's nice to have their factory right there if we need parts, and so on, for that particular brand of sprinkler. So it's worked, what we've been doing. I had a conversation here off the mike with some people, had talked to their banker, and so on, et cetera, had they ever heard of the Nebraska Rural Development Commission? No, they hadn't from northeast Nebraska. And I find it interesting that they are not out here in the lobby. I think what they're doing is trying to keep their heads down, and I don't blame them for that. We took them out of the statutes earlier in the session. And, whoa, we're backing up and putting them back in. And I think...find that rather interesting that I really don't know that they want to do that. Some people say, yes, they do, but I have not heard that they want to be put back in statute. So I think we better be careful of what we're trying to do. They may not want it. I'm, obviously, going to continue to oppose LB 48. I think it's a disservice and false hope to rural people to say, oh, we've got another one of these commissions out there. We're going to make a state agency out of them again when we're doing what I consider a good job now. The local people out there have their economic development corporations set up. They work. They have been demonstrated to work, and in conjunction with private enterprise that's out there. We don't need to reinvent the wheel and give these people false hope. So I urge the body to reject LB 48 as it is currently amended and would return the