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March 9, 2004 LB 888

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. It is 1:30, past. As the agenda states, General File 2004 senator priority bills. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 888 was introduced by Senator Friend and others. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 7 of this year, referred to the Urban Affairs Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments attached.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Friend, you're recognized to open on LB 888.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LB 888 essentially updates our state energy code from a 1983 model energy code or the MEC, to the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code. I designated it as my priority bill for the session because I feel very strongly about the legislation and the benefits it will provide to homeowners, energy providers and really the state as a whole. From a statewide standpoint and a public policy standpoint, we've always felt that...and, again, statewide we've always felt we could do better than that 20-year-old code and it also makes sound common sense to do so. Dr. Amy Musser of the College of Architectural Engineering at the University of Nebraska examined the cost-effectiveness of updating our 1983 energy code to the 2000 IECC. After an extensive analysis and a year's worth of work, the findings were clear, as you can see in the executive summary that I handed out earlier. And I quote, this is Dr. Musser speaking: An upgrade to the 2000 IECC from the 1983 MEC would generate dollar savings from reduced energy use in excess of any mortgage payment increases due to higher construction costs. The difference would mean a Nebraska homeowner could pocket between \$50 and \$295 a year in savings, depending on where that homeowner lived. Dr. Musser concluded, among some other things that she mentioned, and I quote: Adoption of the 2000 IECC by the state of Nebraska will result in more than \$59.6 million, that's in 2003 dollars, saved over the life of the houses built before 2015, even if there is no housing growth during that period. Because these savings from