

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2004            LB 888

available in those states that have adopted the most current energy codes. Currently, nearly half of the states have adopted either the 2000 or the 2003 IECC as their state energy code and are taking full advantage of Fannie Mae's program. And it recognizes that energy efficient homes cost homeowners less to operate on a monthly basis because they use less energy. It's as simple as that. The tax deductibility is another major benefit to the homeowner since home mortgages may be deducted on personal income tax and, of course, utility costs are not. The building code's assistant project put it best by stating, and I quote: The value of energy efficiency and properly implemented construction standards is universally recognized as the easiest and most cost-effective way to help consumers save energy and money, make housing more affordable, and reduce air pollution. All these benefits are difficult or impossible to capture if not taken into consideration at the time of construction, end quote. I guess in concluding I'd like to note that the operative due date of this bill is July 1, 2005. Now there's a good specific reason for that. It will allow the Nebraska Energy Office time to necessarily educate local code officials to the 2003 IECC. Federal monies, not General Fund dollars, will be used for the training component of this bill and the fiscal note reflects that. Also, the delayed date of implementation will allow the body an intervening session to readdress the issue should we all feel the need to do so. I just wanted to let you know I thank you for the consideration on this matter. I ask for the advancement of LB 888 with the committee amendment and thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments offered by the Urban Affairs Committee. Senator Hartnett, as Chairman of that committee, you're recognized to open on AM2429. (Legislative Journal page 531.)

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, the amendment addresses concern expressed about the provision of the bill that would have removed current authority from local code enforcement jurisdictions, cities, village, and county, to enact local variances from the state code when justified by local condition. The current provisions of LB 888 essentially