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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. You've heard the opening on LB 59. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I certainly support this bill. In my area, this Microenterprise Act has certainly helped a lot of our small businesses, especially our minority businesses, and they've turned in to be very successful businesses locally. So I certainly support this and I think this increase is necessary so we can help more people in this enterprise. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Synowiecki, followed by Senator McDonald. Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I want to thank Senator Mines for bringing this to the floor, and I want to echo Senator Engel's statements. Relative to my district, this is one of them few government programs that really works. The small entrepreneurs in my district, particularly those in the enterprise zone or the south Omaha business district, receive business training, how to do business plans and so forth. If it weren't for the loan program set up under the mechanism of this microloan program, many of these businesses would not have gotten started. The entrepreneur spirit is high in the south Omaha business district, in a large part due to this mechanism that is available to the residents of the district, and I just want to echo Senator Engel's comments relative to the effectiveness of this program, and I want to thank again Senator Mines for bringing this. You know, a \$25,000 threshold anymore to start a business just doesn't do it. And hopefully, hopefully the Legislature will correspondingly...and I hope Senator Mines would support this, the Legislature will correspondingly increase the resources that it has put in this pot, in this to begin with. And I believe the Governor...one of the Governor's initiatives includes a substantial increase in the resources allotted to the microenterprise program. Thank you again.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. Senator McDonald.