

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

February 14, 2005 LB 126

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Senator Aguilar and Mr. President and members. I'll continue on a little bit with my comments about transportation. There is an obligation and one of the safeguards that we've tried to build into this bill, and I think have been successful in doing so, is to make it clear to the K-12 board, who would be making decisions about buildings, what both sides of the issue are. And certainly one of the sides of the issue is transportation expenses incurred by parents. As I say, there is a statutory requirement now that for elementary students, if the transportation is more than four miles to the elementary center, then parents are entitled to reimbursement. So, again, if...that is certainly going to be something that comes into the decision of the K-12 board. I will tell you also that transportation is individualized and picked up in the equalization formula, so a school district certainly is not going to resist transportation because, at least as you go down the road, they would be reimbursed for that. The tax haven idea, again I would reemphasize, we do not...we have moved away from that sort of an arrangement and I think for absolutely good reason, and it's something we absolutely need to stick with. So...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes, and Senator Aguilar. On with discussion. Senator Flood.

SENATOR FLOOD: Mr. President and members, I rise in opposition to LB 126. As long as we're talking about things like efficiency, minority students, and curriculum, I'd like to introduce you to the NEN cooperative from Madison County. I'm fortunate to represent one of the most, if not the most, successful cooperative in the state of Nebraska. Seven rural schools have gone together for more than 20 years to put their resources together to teach students, to provide ELL services, to provide the rural residents of Madison County quality education, and they've been successful. Three hundred and nineteen kids attend NEN Schools in Madison County. The 19th Legislative District is home to the most successful cooperative.