

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

February 15, 2005 LB 126

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: There are. I mean, we...they can be spent for technology, mentoring programs. It is a good program. The reason I'm bringing this up, they are in the general fund expenditures. You figured, in the savings in the fiscal note, that the total of the general fund expenditures would be saved. My question is how you can figure the grant fund exemptions in there, all these REAP funds, when it's federal money? And how could you...and if the Class I's close, this money will be lost. And even by your own admittance, it will be at least \$1 million. I've been told \$2.5 million. This money will be lost. How can that actually be considered a savings?

SENATOR RAIKES: Oh, there's a question mark there someplace? What specifically did you want me to...well, I'll...okay, I'll try, Senator. I mentioned this in a couple of contexts, as you referred to. I think the results are that there are...there's about \$7 million now that is...comes into the state through this REAP program. Our estimate is--and this is just our estimate; this doesn't have the blessing of the Fiscal Office by any means--that about \$1 million of that would no longer come in if Class I schools were closed.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: Why would \$6 million still come in? It's because the REAP program is available, I believe, for any school less than 600 students. I'm not exactly sure of the allocation mechanism, but it's something like that. So there are a lot of schools in Nebraska, other than Class I's, that are eligible, or would be eligible, for this kind of...or participation in this program.

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: I think the Class I's get \$2.5 million total out of the \$7 million, if I'm told right. My...just my general point--I know I'm getting close to being out of time here--is that I know for sure at least \$1 million will be lost because the Class I's will be closed. It can't be considered a savings. And I do have questions on the fiscal note. Appreciate the conversation that we have to try to work our our differences. And thank you very much. I'll turn the rest of my time back to