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LB 546

to work together, and to do it properly. So I would just urge the support of LB 546. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Redfield, followed by Senator Beutler and others.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the body. I rise in support of the bill. I'm one of those people who drive that corridor every morning, along with, I understand, over 5,000 people that leave Lincoln every morning to drive to Omaha to work. And people enjoy the ride, because it is very relaxing to look out at the countryside. And it's going to be hard to see that disappear someday. But I also recognize the demographics of this state. I recognize that we are very high on the senior citizen population. We are high on the high-need students in our schools. I recognize that we are requiring our young people to attend some kind of training or higher education after they leave our high schools, before they go into the work force. And the reality is, as I tell many voters, we just don't have enough worker bees in this state to support the population that needs those tax dollars. So I believe that anything that we can do to grow Nebraska is beneficial, not just for the people who come here, but certainly the people who already are here and will be left with a very, very high tax burden if in fact we don't grow our population. The needs will increase. I don't believe that the dollars in the pockets will increase at the same rate that our needs are going to increase. So it's very, very important. Senator Brown, if I...oh, I'm sorry. Senator Brown has slipped out. I wanted to talk a little bit about the economic triangle in North Carolina. Senator Brown referenced the fact that I have a son that actually lives there. And I think that one thing we want this commission to look at is some kind of broad-based attraction, so that we're not only drawing one industry that might be impacted in a very cohesive way in an economic downturn. We all know that when the price of cattle goes down it hurts us as a state, or when the price of corn goes down it hurts us as a state, because of the large portion of our GDP that is devoted to those industries. So I think that it would behoove the commission to look not only at high-tech and biotech, but at a broad-based variety, so that in any kind of economic downturn we would have enough diversity to