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

March 2, 2005 LB 546

echoed what one of Senator Flood's constituents, R.J. Baker, who is a local economic development official, said in support of this bill, that we are long past the time where we can continue to struggle against one another for economic opportunities. And that is certainly the spirit of this bill. And we're also long past the point where we can let opportunities go. It was 80 years ago, it was 1927, that Dallas first approached Fort Worth about the idea of a regional airport. Finally took the federal government to say that they would get...that neither one of the communities would get any more money if they didn't start working together to get something to happen, and another 20 years after that for the airport to actually get constructed. Each and every day, there are opportunities, there are choices that we make, opportunities, to move towards either a targeted group of development that is consistent with what we want, that is attractive, or jobs that are highly technical, a way to more value-added to agriculture, which was the substance of Dr. McDonald's testimony, from the Med Center. was really interesting how the Med Center was working with some of the biotech ideas that have come out of agriculture, to utilize them for human use other than food. And so we can't let opportunities slip by us. We have to dream of what we want and then make it happen. And in the very best of worlds, that's what I hope this bill can do. And I want that not just for the area in eastern Nebraska, but I want that for the whole state. Senator Redfield referenced demographics and the age of individuals. And I would point to the growth in Sarpy County, which...much of which has taken place... I mean, it's taken place in all of Sarpy County, but a lot of it has taken place along the interstate in Sarpy County. In Sarpy County, between 1980 and 2000, they had a 70 percent growth in that county. But the even more interesting fact is that they have the highest percentage of individuals under the age of 18. If we want to grow, development is a part of what we have to support. felt very sad when Senator...how sad Senator Wehrbein looked. But I do know that he has land that is much less developed further out. And so maybe he can always have a place that will be...where he can be an individual and not feel so much a part of the world. But I do think that the future of our state is in development, and I would urge the adoption of this bill. Thank you.