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March 23, 2005 LB 273

everywhere in the state. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Call the question, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on AM0845? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. The question before the body is, shall debate cease? Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate,
Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate does cease, Senator Synowiecki, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members. I appreciate very much the remarks by members and I thought it was a very good and enlightening debate. I essentially agree with many of the remarks relative to the need to streamline and have more collaboration, more focus perhaps in what we do in the area of economic development programming, particularly as it relates to the rural areas of the state. What I'd ask, though, is that for purposes of my amendment, that you differentiate between your position on that issue and the underlying merits of my amendment, which is simply to incorporate within the bill the very similar eligibility criteria between the green copy of the bill and the criteria that is set out as eligibility as a federal enterprise zone. As I noted in the opening, this body has a history of linking the economic development interests of both the depressed rural areas and our two federally recognized enterprise zones, as was embodied in the passage of LB 608 in 2003. Essentially, the amendment does three things. It expands the scope of LB 273 to include federal enterprise zones for the grants that are eligible under the legislation. It, secondly, provides that the Department of Economic Development administer the program rather than the Rural Development Commission, but the Rural Development Commission assist in the development of the program. And finally, it strikes the committee amendment