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FLOOR DEBATE

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dollar-for-dollar local match. Now I said the grants are up to \$75,000, but as I would envision it, a good share of the grants that communities would receive would be in the neighborhood of \$5,000, \$10,000, \$15,000, and then when they have the local matching money, it will give them some serious money to do some things on the local level. But the biggest thing that I would envision is leadership development. We need to develop leaders in rural Nebraska. And from those leaders, we get entrepreneurial development. In rural Nebraska, it's different than in urban areas. It's hard for us to create 10 and 15 and 20 and 30 jobs. We need people out there that will come in. They will go to work, they will create one, two and three jobs, but we need to develop those leaders. I could envision you could also use these grants for community endowments to help with business transfers, and that is one of the...business transfers, by the way, is one of the biggest problems in rural Nebraska. People are getting ready to retire and they have no one to sell their business to, and they haven't really planned ahead. And when that business closes, even though it's only those one, two or three jobs, that is a major problem for a rural community. And as you remember, on...when we talked about this bill on opening day, Senator Synowiecki had a bill to amend in the enterprise zones. And when Senator Synowiecki came to me with that amendment, I initially told him I would be opposed to it because there wouldn't be enough money. But what I did say is if he could get the more money, I would support his amendment, and he did get it. It did pass with \$1 million. But I would tell you after that passed and listening to the tone of the body, I don't think we're going to get \$1 million, so I do have an amendment that is filed, and the amendment would lower the A bill to \$500,000. And I am handing a handout out that you can look at. But we've also heard on the floor that we have a scatter-gun approach and we're not targeting our development, but I don't believe that's accurate. If you look at the handout I sent you, you know, this is from the Rural Development Commission, and this is exactly what they are targeting. In rural Nebraska, you can't just say, create so many jobs and we're going to give you an incentive. There is much, much more to it. We're working on a much smaller scale, and we need to develop those leaders. So I believe that some of the things you see, Senator Stuhr's bill, LB 71, that's for value-added