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

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develop. World trade agreements continue to be entered into, making more competition, allowing products from around the world to compete even in our home markets. So it seems to me that what we have to do is to identify those economic factors that advantageous to rural Nebraska and to Nebraska generally, and build on our strengths. That is, don't try to put money in certain areas of the rural community where you can build all the entrepreneurial spirit that you want, but if the basic underlying factors for locating or building a particular business or industry in that community is not there, it may never be there, probably will never be there. And I think that's what I mean by focus. There are things that we can focus We know the I-80 transportation system is a strength that we have, and we know if there's a place that we can make a change with money, it's probably in areas in the proximity of that backbone. We know we have some great tourist attractions, but even there I don't believe we can put money, scatter money, into all of them. I think we need to focus on those things that can truly draw from the rest of the nation and draw money into The problem is political will. We don't have the leadership yet that's willing to do the in-depth analysis that says, Nebraska, these are your strengths, these are the things you build on, these geographic areas have the potential of great enhancement, focus your scarce resources there and build and grow Nebraska. But we are not willing to make that political decision when it comes to rural Nebraska, for example. We want to help everybody all at once with a little puny amount of money that we have, and it's a puny amount of money even if you're talking about the whole state and everything we're doing. that's why I have a lot of trouble with a bill like this that is not geographically focused, it's not programmatically focused. It's saying let's just find little bits and pieces everywhere that we think will help and we'll pour some significant money into it, and I don't think that's going to work. And this grieves me to say this about this bill, in particular, because a lot of people that I have enormous respect for I know are in favor of this bill. And so, in asking these questions and in presenting these amendments, I'm going to try to seek out what it is in this bill that can really help. The first amendment goes to the question of focus with respect to the political subdivisions that are...that are seen in this bill as being