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LB 38, 113

artificially low base rate. Northeast Community College currently receives one of the lowest amounts of state aid per student, has the highest tuition and mandatory fee rates, and has one of the lowest salaries and staffing levels among the other community colleges. As amended, this would only affect the local property taxes of the 20-county service area of Northeast Community Colleges, or College. Senator Connealy, Engel, Flood, and myself, who represent a majority of this region, have all signed on as cosponsors of this portion of the bill, and also of LB 38 in whole. The effect of the extra levy on a \$100,000 house in the Northeast Community College area would be an additional \$10 a year for the two-year period...or, pardon me, \$10 total, \$5 a year for the two-year period. We've been working with Northeast Community College for several years now, trying to resolve this difficulty. I introduced LB 1156 last year. Senator Tyson introduced LB 601 the year before. Normally, I'm very much opposed to any increase in taxes. However, I didn't see any other way to assist Northeast Community College to get through this situation. I believe the community colleges perform a very important part of revitalization of our rural economies. Northeast plays a significant role in rural development in northeast Nebraska. Dr. Bill Path, the president of Northeast, is implementing an innovative plan, in cooperation with Wayne State College, to expand Northeast Community College in South Sioux City. The expansion of Northeast into the South Sioux City area, it's an area of high-growth potential. It will not only benefit the students, but also the business and industry, promoting regional economic growth and development. And I know that the other senators that are a part of this have more to say. So with that, I will return my time.

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

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support LB 38 as my priority legislation for this session. As you've heard from Senator Raikes, Senator Landis, and Senator Cunningham, and you'll be hearing from others, this bill incorporates LB 113, which I testified in favor of when the bill was heard by the Revenue Committee. I prioritized this bill