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LB 312

investment. But there are also provisions that could be used in small-town Nebraska, by making LB 608, our existing rural economic development bill, more available in the rural marketplace; also, able to fit the network of "teleworkers" and people who work at home, out of their homes, which fits the profile of rural development very well. One of the things that this bill does is to make that mechanism more easily responded to, with an incentive package for workers who work through their computer, their fax machine, and their telephone line in their home. Do we need to change where we are? Fair question. Our best guess is, yes. And that source comes from several places. First, it comes from the analysis of the growth and spurt that we first experienced when we passed LB 775. If you were to take a look at our historical record, there was an incredible jump in economic activity, and it lasted for five or six years. It's still in the positive.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: We're still making growth, but not on the order that we did when we were first there. Was it one minute?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. So we've had a diminution of that growth that we've had when we first passed our tax incentives. That's one indicator that we need it. Secondly, another indicator is our site selection professionals, and our economic development director, who will tell us that while we were in the vanguard 17 years ago, we are no longer in the vanguard. What always got us in the front door 15 years ago no longer gets us in the front door these days, and that when they look into LB 312, they see the opportunity for that. Just today at lunch, my Economic Development director, and yours, Rich Baier, said, this will significantly alter the kinds of people that we get to talk to, to sell Nebraska on growth, and it will open doors for us. The third source of information that tells us that we need to do something about our current set of tax incentives is the KPMG study that was done this last summer.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Landis. You've