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LB 312

need to do it now. Senator Landis referred to this division, the Nebraska Advantage Act, as "son of LB 775." And in order to determine whether it's a good idea to proceed further, we need to ask ourselves whether we believe that LB 775 worked. And in that regard, I would like to cite a World-Herald article from this weekend, where they analyzed the impacts of LB 775. And they talk about, for the straight years...for ten straight years before the passage of LB 775, Nebraska trailed the nation in growth of private sector wage and salary jobs, at times, by wide margins. But beginning in 1987, there was a reversal of that trend, with the state experiencing ten straight years of growth that exceeded the U.S. average. Compared with all the plains states, Nebraska has consistently had a job growth edge since 1987 that has not abated, topping those neighboring states in all but 4 of the last 17 years. If job growth in Nebraska had simply matched the U.S. rate since 1987, the state would have 67,000 fewer jobs today, and 40,000 fewer if Nebraska had grown at the rate of other plains states. That's pretty impressive information. And the numbers are significant, because we spend a lot of time arguing about whether it's made a difference. Well, this would say that it has made a difference, and that difference is significant. Now, your attitude towards the job development that has occurred because of incentives is your frame of reference. And my frame of reference has been that I have worked with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce on...with site selection individuals. And so I hear what they have to say. And incentives are definitely a part of what they look for. I also worked on this...the establishment of the Caterpillar plant in Sarpy County, and I know that incentives were at least a part of what caused them to locate in Nebraska. And those were all new jobs, and huge new investment for the state. I know that the jobs that were moved from St. Louis for Union Pacific would not have happened were it not for the incentives. So that's my frame of reference. And so I find these numbers compelling and true, because it's true within my frame of reference. And my frame of reference is not just with Omaha and Sarpy County, but also the community that I graduated from high school in, Broken Bow, which has a company, Becton, Dickinson, which has been one of the great success stories of rural economic development, and keeping a company that has been a good member of the community, and really had an impact on a very