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LB 312

road. Twenty years from now, we have a huge problem in this state as far as the economic development. We now have the opportunity to take steps that could reverse that trend. Because the trends are not good. The only way that we can improve our condition is to bring in new job opportunities into this state, and to allow current businesses to expand within our state. We need jobs. I'm concerned about the number of...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...people who graduate from school and have to go elsewhere simply to have the economic opportunity to advance themselves. I don't think we should provide that we don't have that opportunity here in the state. It's not fair to our graduates. It's not fair to the long-run development of this state. So there are concerns about some of the elements of the plan that I will address at a later time. But as far as general terms is concerned, I think that LB 312 is a step in the right direction. I think we should refine those measures. But certainly, we cannot wait another year to move forward. We have made room in this budget, and with the help of the Forecasting Board, twice. But we have made room in this budget. There is room for a reasonable economic package. I am grateful for that. I think now is the time to utilize those funds to provide for that economic package. And I would urge that we go forward with LB 312 as we move...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...through and perhaps refine some of the minor terms of that. But I think, in essence, it provides for all ends of the spectrum, the very...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...small ends, and the later ends. Thank you very much.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Jensen, your light is next.