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LB 312

Nebraska that LB 312 presents, in that...Senator Chambers mentioned lack of jobs with benefits. And I look back at Valmont Industries locating in McCook. It may be in McCook, but let me tell you where a lot of those people work. I think they have over 200 employees, with benefits, all sorts of benefits that we're not used to in rural Nebraska. They located in McCook over, as I recall, Plainview, Texas. And without those 200 jobs and all those benefits...and I have to tell you, a lot of those people working...and talk about the work ethic. They're underemployed agricultural workers who had no benefits. And they typically flock to these kind of jobs, because the benefits, in some cases, are worth more than the salary. And I know for a fact, people that work there, one of the main reasons they do is the benefit package. So if we don't have these incentives, we don't have the jobs, we don't have the businesses to create the jobs, we don't...somebody has to make some money here to pay the taxes to provide the benefits to the people who are less fortunate, I guess, that don't have the jobs. And my concern here is that we focus on rural Nebraska. If you'll look at the bill, there is a particular program in there that if you create two jobs and spend \$125,000, you qualify for some benefits through this bill. That's in there. Two jobs, \$125,000, in counties...I believe we changed it, through committee amendment, to counties with less than 15,000 population. We've done so much work on this, I can't remember exactly where we ended up on some of it. But I certainly want to also commend the Governor and his staff. I don't know how many meetings I've attended. And I know I haven't attended all of them by any means, and the hours put in on this, to focus on rural Nebraska. And me being from a very rural district, it's very important to me that we get this package passed this year. And I'm with Senator Don Pederson. We can't wait on this. There are businesses sitting out there...as I said in my earlier little talk here, I had a phone call this morning from people looking to locate an R & D project in rural Nebraska, worth...I think the price tag is \$6.9 million. Several jobs, with benefits, and they're comparing what they are offered in LB 312 with what was offered in Texas, which were modest, but they have an interest in a presence already in Nebraska, and they're willing to come up here for that. But that's focused on rural Nebraska, of all places, for an R & D. I want to go back, make