TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 9, 2005 LB 312

incentive as part of it, and that this just favored Lincoln and Omaha, particularly Omaha. I might say what's wrong with helping Omaha? If we help Omaha, we help the whole state. now there are direct provisions to help the rural areas. But I might show you that is already into effect. In Kearney County, which is about 6,000 total residents, 1,250 of them come to Buffalo County to work every day. Now what's been going on in Buffalo County? First of all, I'll back up for just a second, what's been going on in Kearney County itself? This is one of the more successful ethanol plants that has been built. It's between Axtell and Minden. I can tell you this. A couple of years ago, when they were...tried raising the money for this, there was a lot of arm twisting going on because this wasn't so sure that this was going to work. It has worked extremely well and now we can look back and see how, quote, good an investment I don't think it would have happened without LB 775's help. In the city of Kearney itself, one of the best businesses we have is Cash-Wa Distributing. When I first came to Kearney, Cash-Wa Distributing was under the Kearney viaduct. If you come to our city now and see the distribution plant that they have, you'll see it is a state-of-the-art distribution center. They are also in North Platte; Lincoln; Cheyenne, Wyoming; and Kansas City.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JOHNSON: They've invested \$3.5 million, they have 400 people that work in this state. These are quality people with a quality business doing a great job. Somebody gave me maybe the best idea about these incentives awhile back when it questioned their value. He said this: One-half of something is a lot better than all of nothing. And I think without the incentives we would have all of nothing. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Brown, followed by Senator Janssen and others.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, to talk a little bit about the difference in the environment, in the business environment, in the time between when we first adopted incentive legislation and now, I'd like to share a story with you. There