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LB 312

this afternoon that we need to do all we can to improve our economy and also to try to retain our young people in our state. And I did run across some statistics talking about population changes in the Midwest, and from 2000 to 2004, in that age category of 25 to 44 years of age, we suffered a minus 2.8 percent. So I think we need to do all we can to promote more job opportunities in this state, create more businesses, and I think that this is certainly what LB 312 will do. We have many different provisions in LB 312 and I think that's very good because it does help our state, which is a very diversified state. A couple things: Being from rural Nebraska, I'm always interested in some of the programs that might be found that would really help our rural areas, and many of these have been shared by my rural colleagues, but I wanted to just repeat a couple of those; that companies can qualify for credits if they create two jobs and \$125,000 of new investment in counties with less than 15,000 population. And that provision alone, I believe, will I think impact maybe between 60 and 70 of our 93 counties. So I think that will be very helpful. Also, if they create five jobs and \$250,000 investment in counties with less than 25,000 population, so this again is another tier that could be very helpful. The statewide sales tax exemption on manufacturing equipment, I do think that we...this will be very helpful. Thirty-eight other states exempt this tax, so this would certainly be another tool, I believe, in Nebraska's toolbox. Sharing some of the projects that were qualified under the LB 775 in my district, I actually had over 12 projects and I'll just review some of those: in York County, Abengoa Bioenergy, 105 jobs, and this started back in 1997; Alltel was also in York and Seward, that was about 31 jobs; First York Bank Corporation, a \$3 million investment and 30 jobs; Kroy Building Products, this is a company that's been in the York area for a number of years. One of the newest that did qualify was Pioneer Hybrid, and if any of you have the opportunity to visit this new business I think you would find it very interesting, and that actually had an investment of \$3 million and 30 jobs. Since York County is a very corn-producing state (sic), I believe the location of this industry, this seed corn plant, the location is certainly very beneficial. Also, in Seward...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.