

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

May 9, 2005

LB 312

and I think that's a big plus that's not really been talked about very much, but in reading the bill this is...this stood out to me. The other thing is we talked about...earlier I mentioned about the wages. The specifics of that is the most significant change that makes this bill different from LB 775, is that the requirement of a wage equal to at least 60 percent of the state's average wage for all employers for purposes of qualifying for and earning benefits. So again, if you're going to try to qualify, you must pay at least a living wage. And like I said before, that has been a big place where people have complained about the credits that have been given. Yeah, you're being given these credits, but you can't even live off of what you make. And let's see, granting larger wage credits for the better paying jobs, and the "teleworkers" counting as jobs interrelated to the project. Tier 3, this is one of the tiers that are mentioned here which provides a lot of...more different...more levels that would bring more players into the game as far as smaller and medium-sized businesses. One of them, tier 3, has zero investment and 30 jobs. And if you count telecommuting, that would be a really big boom if you brought 30 telecommuting jobs to a community. That's conceivable and what you're doing is promoting that kind of employment, which is really going to benefit the rural people. And again, we...it's very hard to attract a big...you know, a Goodyear or a big company that has a big initial...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR COMBS: ...investment in plant op and property and equipment and all that to come and set up in a remote location when they don't have the labor market there to draw from to staff their business. It just ain't going to happen. But when you have zero investment required and 30 jobs, that is very reasonable and, again, I think a good thing for rural Nebraska. The small business microenterprise tax program credit would allow up to \$2 million of refundable individual income tax credits per year for applicants operating a "microbusiness" in a depressed area. Depressed areas are defined as municipalities that have had a population decrease between the two most recent censuses--a lot of small towns, unincorporated areas in counties that have lost population between the two most recent censuses,