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LB 312

that does concern me a little bit in this bill is, in this bill it's got kind of a two-tier level. One tier is \$15,000...I mean 15,000 population or less, and another one is 25,000 population or less. Our community, our county, has a population of about 32,000. I would have liked to see that second tier be at about a 35,000 population, or change it from the 25,000 to be a community or a county, either one. That would have benefited our area better. But as I realize, and everyone else realizes, no matter where you set a number or figure, someone it doesn't satisfy. So I think we can live with it in our area, in my area, and the reason I say that is because we have proven that we can, you know, continue to attract businesses, attract people, keep people in the rural areas. And that's very, very important. So I'm, you know, I'm very supportive of this bill. I have a few concerns about the one tier, but I can work with that. But I'm trying to give you a little bit of history of my area, just like Senator Flood said, you know. It is just not Omaha and Lincoln receiving, you know, the tax incentives. It is out there in the rural area. But it's in rural areas that are concerned about their own livelihood. We've attracted wonderful companies to Columbus that pay a good wage. So that's very important. That is about all the comments that I have, and I'll yield the rest of my time to Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Synowiecki, you have a minute and 35 seconds.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Well, I appreciate that. Senator Stuthman, I was going to speak on the issue, obviously, and I actually was going to speak relative to our incentive package, as it relates to employment, and as Senator Howard spoke to, as far as the healthcare benefits, but I've got my light on, and I will speak to them issues a little bit later. But, you know, generally speaking, I agree with what has been said on the floor. Other states are involved in recruiting companies and corporations and good jobs at our states. You know, we have to do something. We can't close the door to new investments in our state and the creation of new jobs.

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.