

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

May 9, 2005

LB 312

648 companies, manufacturing companies, with 49,859. And then you get down to the...I'm sorry, it was 27,674 in Omaha metro area. Counties over 10,000 have 685 companies in them, with 49,859 employees. Those counties over 10,000 are Adams; Box Butte, which I believe is Alliance; Buffalo; Colfax; Custer; Dakota; Dawson; Dodge; Gage; Hall; Holt; Lincoln; Madison; Otoe; Platte; Red Willow; Saline; Scotts Bluff; and York. Once again, those are 685 companies in those counties over 10,000, which...but excluding the metro area, with 49,000-plus employees, nearly 50,000. Then the rest of the state, 67 counties; you're talking counties under 10,000. Although we changed the criteria for some of the smaller tiers to 15,000, the way this information I have is broken down, under 10,000, which would include the other 67 counties, there are 329 manufacturing companies within those counties, with over 8,000 employees. That's what we're going to focus on here. Actually, I'd say, the counties, the rest of the state, including those 67 smallest counties, but also some of those counties over 10,000--I think Senator Kremer talked about the major expansion there in the Aurora area, so they would be one of those counties, I believe, with over--no, they're not over 10,000, so they aren't listed in my group, anyway. They're under 10,000--Senator Kremer is giving me some information here--so they would be included in that rest-of-the-state component that we're focusing on with some of the provisions in LB 312. And since we're trying to address issues concerning the divided question here, I will focus again on my part of it. That's the second part of the divided question, dealing with sales tax exemptions on the manufacturing equipment. We expect to target that, along with the provisions of the microenterprise, and I think Senator Combs was the one that brought that up. We have several tiers, as small...as low as two jobs created,...

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...\$125,000. I think there's a five jobs and \$250,000, I think, are the figures, but we're targeting the very smallest companies here with that part of the puzzle. Plus, they will be exempt from the sales tax on their equipment, they're putting in that...in those projects. And I can state