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LB 90, 312

build a better Nebraska, and I guess LB 90. Somebody may look at me from Madison County, where we do have enough...well, we don't have cabs, so we couldn't take cabs out of town, but you might think that I would be more of a rural senator. And in fact, LB 775 has done a lot for Norfolk and for Madison County and some of the bigger businesses that exist and drive job creation in Norfolk. I can think of a number of different companies, such as Affiliated Foods, Nucor Steel, and Vulcraft, and Nucor Cold Finish, bringing hundreds of people to work in our community every day. And then I look at this bill, LB 312, in comparison to the others that we'll hear in the coming days, and I celebrate what is being done with LB 90. We can do great things with ethanol in Nebraska. We can do great things for rural communities by increasing the number of entrepreneurs, and making opportunities available in counties with less than 15,000 people. Senator Stuhr's and Cunningham's bill, together with the idea of job training, makes sense to me in Nebraska. But I guess when you put it all together, we need to arm the state, and when I say "the state," the Economic Development Department, DED, with the tools to sell a potential business on Nebraska. And we need to lay enough down on the table so that we are (a) a competitor, and (b) we can walk away with the deal. The state of Iowa has given their governor a slush fund that he can write checks out of, that he can get aggressive. We know firsthand up in our corner of the state, with the Wells Blue Bunny experience in South Sioux City, where Nebraska was working very aggressively to try and keep that company...or to bring that company across the river into Nebraska, and Iowa, at the end of the day, was able to secure and retain a long-time employer, because the governor had the ability to be very aggressive. I think we should give our state the tools necessary to go in and compete. We're not giving anybody, like...a blank check, like Iowa may give its governor, but we're giving businesses the opportunity to make a place for themselves in Nebraska, and the tools to make it a profitable venture. So I again just thank Senator Landis and the Governor's Office and the folks in here that have been so supportive, and look forward to this passing. I return my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Flood. Senator Combs, on the bracket motion.