

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

May 10, 2005

LB 90

and body (inaudible) LB 608, and essentially indicated that any county in this state with a population of less than 15,000 inhabitants, according to the most recent federal census, and in any...or in any designated enterprise zone, would have been able to fit the criteria for some of these refundable credits. So it would kind of maintain a public policy position of linking our rural economy to our inner-city poor or our enterprise zones. Now, Senator Stuhr's bill...or, Senator Stuhr's amendment to this, the goals embodied within the grant program I think are uniquely rural. And let me just read some of them. Support self-employment and small-scale entrepreneurship in both...wait. Think I'm on the wrong page. Support self-employment and small-scale entrepreneurship in both agriculture and nonagriculture activities; enhance income opportunities for farming and ranching operation, to stem the decline of the number of such operations; develop strategies and progress to increase the farming and ranching operations' share of the food system profit; build the capacity of farming and ranching operations; and so forth and so on. I would submit that those goals embodied within her program are uniquely rural, uniquely agricultural-driven. But when I read the goals embodied within your provisions--and that is to provide education and technical assistance to energize small business development and entrepreneurship; to provide technical assistance to facilitate small business transfers; build community business capacity and leadership programs; generate opportunities that will attract and retain young people and families; provide education about philanthropy and intergovernmental (sic) transfer of wealth, and so forth; build community endowments to support these activities--I would submit that the goals embodied within your grant program are very compatible, and correspond quite well with that of our federally recognized enterprise zones, particularly if you go through the criteria of what you need to become recognized as a federal enterprise zone. And I guess the question then would be, given our public policy history of linking, when appropriate, rural economic development and our enterprise zones, and given that the criteria of your bill and the goals of your...and the goals embodied within your part of this amendment kind of fit uniquely well with the enterprise zones in our inner cities, is there...would you entertain any possibility of reenergizing the thought or the possibility of