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May 12, 2005

LB 90A, 90, 273

File, appropriations bill. Mr. Clerk, LB 90A.

CLERK: LB 90A, by Senator Wehrbein. (Read title.) I do have amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, to open on the bill.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This is the LB 90 that we passed day before yesterday. This is the A bill that goes with it. I'll read briefly what is in the present A bill, as we drafted it following our actions on Tuesday. There's \$150,000 General Funds Department of Economic Development in both '05 and '06, and '06-07, to provide funding for the Rural Development Commission. This appropriation would provide ongoing funding for the commission, its staff. Number two, there would be \$850,000 in General Funds to both '05-06 and '06-07 for Agriculture Opportunities and Value-added Partnerships Act. All funding would be earmarked as state aid. And third, there would be \$250,000 in General Funds in both '05-06 and '06-07 for the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act, that is, LB 273. Again, all funding would be marked as state aid. That is simply it,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...the A bill following what we did in LB 90.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk, amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment, Senator Chambers, AM1528. (Legislative Journal page 1459.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: My fellow Americans, I come before you today with a heavy heart. What I have to do really rubs me the wrong way. This amendment was going to add \$750,000 in General Fund money to this program. I had done all that I could to have this program killed. I had even prevailed--at least partly it was my doing--on the ones who supported this bill to take \$1 million