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LB 312

60 percent of the average wage, and go forward from here. So I'm rising in opposition to the amendment at this point.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Beutler, there are no further lights on. The Chair recognizes you to close on AM1623.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, the purpose of the bill is to bring jobs to Nebraska that are good jobs. If you're going to leave in place a provision that says that this can be used for a project where wages, on average, are 60 percent of the Nebraska average weekly wage, then my position is that's too low. That's too low. I don't think we want to be paying taxpayers money for average wages that are that low, generally speaking. So what the amendment does with respect to the two lowest tiers, which are 60 percent and 75 percent, it increases those tiers to 70 percent and 85 percent of the average annual Nebraska wage, so that these...this incentive bill, where we're paying out \$60 million or more of what would otherwise be revenue to take care of schools and higher education and our other needs, so we can be sure when we pay out this money that we're paying it out for decent paying jobs. We're not paying it out for jobs that will bring the average wage in Nebraska down. To me, it makes no sense to do that. The amendment, though, does make an exception, and leaves at the 60 percent and at the 70 percent level, the levels currently in the bill, that wage level in what we call distressed areas of the state, so that in those areas I do not make a change, but in other areas we do a little better and improve the types of projects, require an improvement in the types of projects we support with respect to the average annual wage that is paid. So with that, I'd ask for the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the closing on AM1623. The question before the body is, shall AM1623 be adopted to LB 312? All in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Voting on adoption of the Beutler amendment, AM1623. Have you all voted on the question who care to? Senator Beutler, what purpose do you...?