

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

May 17, 2005

LB 312

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And that's way above minimum wage, right?

SENATOR CONNEALY: That's correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And this applies to rural areas of the state only, right?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So, in this incentive bill, we're requiring way higher than a minimum wage, even though the theory of almost everything else we do is that we should pay lower wages in rural Nebraska because they need the jobs more. How do we explain the fact that this minimum qualifying salary is here?

SENATOR CONNEALY: I think that you can have a minimum. I think it can't be too high to be outside the normal area of business. And I think that as you're right around \$9 an hour, I think that this still works in rural Nebraska for the kind of jobs that are...have traditionally been given incentives under LB 608, and...which is now the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act. And so I think it works.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Am I reading this right, in the sense that every employee of a company who benefits from this act has to be paid at least \$8.25 an hour? Is that a correct reading?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Every employee that's counted for the credit. So, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. What about the new Nebraska Advantage Act? Is there a minimum wage that's applicable there?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Right. It's...for it to be claimed as a job credit, it is about \$9 an hour.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. So the minimum wage would...it would be \$9 an hour?