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LB 312

today's mechanized society, that they would actually have the ability to install robotics into a plant and eliminate people. So the state, in essence, would be subsidizing, not only...not the growth of jobs, but sometimes the diminution of jobs. And the amendment that is before you is one which would address that particular scenario. What it would say is that if, in fact, a company that had qualified for the job credits under the investment-only portion or tier of the bill, if they maintain their employment level at the base level, great. Everything is fine, and I think that basically I have heard from the insurance industry, I've heard from the financial institutions, and I think that that would be the case. But in the case of a manufacturing plant, where in fact it would be very feasible to eliminate jobs with the installation of robotics or other mechanization, while I don't think Nebraska wants to stand in the way of anyone modernizing their plant and staying in business and improving their bottom line, at the same time, we would not want to subsidize the decrease in jobs. And this would say...this amendment would say that whatever proportion of jobs were to decrease during the term of nine years, following qualification, you would find a decrease in your credits by the same proportion. So if you cut your work force in half, you'd actually lose half of the credits. If you only cut your work force by 10 percent, you would only lose 10 percent. And if you didn't cut your work force at all, you would lose none of the credits. The goal of any economic incentive package is to make Nebraska stronger, to grow our jobs, to grow the population of our state. And therefore, I believe that this would be a good safeguard that would create a tier in law which would be very similar to the protections and the results that we have seen under those tiers which include both investment and a job growth factor. I would be happy to address any questions that people might have, but I would tell you that we need to be very, very cautious as we create this incentive, so that, in fact, we are not decreasing the number of jobs in the state of Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. You've the heard the opening on AM1615, offered by Senator Redfield to LB 312. Open for discussion. Senator Combs.