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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 312

should have been clearer. I just should have been more direct, just should have told him a little better. I'll try to do better next time for you, Adrian. This measure is as balanced as we can make it between the desire to make our state more attractive to those who are not here but would consider coming, for those who are here who are enticed elsewhere, for those who are here and want to grow a business. It balances people who have already made LB 775 work and don't want to part with any of the benefits that they now get, and, at the same time, redesigned the program to make it as efficient as possible. We have done...we had many more demands than we could possibly meet. We were more generous than what I'm sure a number of you would like us to have been. We have made progress. Our disclosure is better. We have a minimum floor on the quality of jobs. We have a sliding scale that reflects job quality. We have sunsets on the new tiers so that they'll be back to be seen again. We have an index that grows the investment over time so it's not static like what we had in LB 775, and we now have a job requirement that's worked its way into the investment-only package, courtesy of the Redfield amendment that you adopted a moment ago. We've made as much progress as we can on this front. It's been difficult because, in fact, there is not one answer in economic development, there's a whole panoply or range, and they don't always coincide. In fact, they pull in opposite corners, opposite directions sometime. But it is my hope and belief that we had made progress on a difficult front for which the state of Nebraska needs progress. We need expansion, we need jobs, we need opportunity, and we need growth. Our demographics are such in this state that growth is the only logical, rational, and achievable result that will get us out of the coming cataclysm in our budget system, and that is to get growth in Nebraska so that we can return to a pyramid demographically that has more young people than old people, and has more opportunity than memory. I would ask for the advancement of LB 312.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the closing on advancement of LB 312. Senator Chambers, are you requesting a board vote? Been request for a board vote. All in favor of advancement of LB 312, E & R for engrossing, vote aye; those opposed vote nay. The question before the body is advancement of LB 312 to E & R