

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 126

together. And...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...the Class I's can count as separate.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time is up.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Heidemann. Senator Flood.

SENATOR FLOOD: Mr. President, members, there is no doubt this is a gut-wrenching issue. If you live in a rural area and you represent a rural district, it is so gut-wrenching on so many levels, it's hard to even negotiate, because LB 126 going away seems like the only way to solve every individual problem that you have in your office here in the Capitol every day. And for some of us in the rural areas, we are balancing the interests of a Class III and a Class I. We have K-12s that have issues, and we have Class I's that have issues. And so it's a balancing act. And everyone has a different situation. I want to commend Senator Raikes, as a strong opponent to LB 126 throughout the entire process. He has negotiated, he has considered, and in my opinion, has worked very hard to recognize our stand on these issues. Now, he can't agree to every one, just like a lot of us can't agree to every one of his positions. And in this situation, negotiating with eight individual problems with very little commonality has to be difficult. So I want to recognize his efforts. In the big picture, we'd like LB 126 to go away. It's not going to. There are some pros to this amendment. Attendance center protection, that is key. Seven to nine years, that is a significant concession. You can look at a 3rd grade parent and you can tell Mrs. Smith that her son is going to finish his or her elementary school at that attendance center. I'm sure there's going to be efficiencies somewhere in the process. I'm not aware of where that is yet, but I'm hoping there's going to be some. And there's a recognition in this that there are some districts in Nebraska, like Schuyler,