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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 40

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. The...Senator Flood, you're recognized.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to thank Senator Redfield for her efforts on this. She has been very artful and has been dealing with a number of different interests and has balanced those interests very well, together with Senator Synowiecki. I would agree we want something that's fair, but the process still has to be competitive. And giving an entitlement to one area was the concern that I shared and I would hope that the Department of Economic Development would recognize a need in Omaha as well as a need in Ord or Neligh or wherever else. And I would just ask that the department pays close attention to the funds that belong in areas that need them, and Omaha has a need, Bellevue has a need, and Lincoln has a need, and the rural areas of Douglas, Sarpy County also have needs, and Lancaster County, but we have them out in rural Nebraska. I appreciate Senator Redfield's assistance in pulling this amendment, and if the Department of Economic Development is listening, and they should be today, I will be interested to see how those funds are used next year. Hopefully, our Governor and the state can secure and continue to conserve...secure federal funds to help our efforts at providing affordable housing across the state, and I want to put a pitch in for the bill. The bill goes beyond affordable housing. It addresses behavioral health, housing for folks that are suffering from an illness or getting behavioral health concerns under control, and I...with your help we can make sure that that housing is available across the state so that they can live, work, and operate in their own communities. So this is a very good bill. It will achieve great things. Nobody likes to see an increase, but when we look at what we're faced with from behavioral health to getting a home for the working poor, I think it's an excellent start, and I appreciate Senator Redfield's efforts. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The amendment is withdrawn. Next amendment, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President (sic), the next amendment, Senator