

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

May 25, 2005

LB 126A, 126

involved in the discussion with the Class I schools, since I have hardly any in my district. The main one is the Grand Island Northwest and the feeder schools, which are four schools that are very large Class I schools. They, at the present time, work together. I think their boards meet regularly, maybe every month or every other month. But they have not been really fighting the LB 126, other than, they had some concerns on protecting buildings and some things like that. But I do know that they qualify for REAP money, and that's going to go away with the new adoption of LB 126. So I think it's appropriate that for these three years--it's not forever, but it's only for three years--that they would be able to get this money that would replace what they would lose in REAP money. So with that, I will oppose the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Burling.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I want to thank all of those who worked so hard on LB 126, on both sides of the issue, to come up with the bill that we advanced the other day. I stand, too, in opposition of AM1719, echo what those before me have said. I'm in a unique position of having two of the Class VI school districts in my legislative district that are benefiting from REAP funds and will benefit from this. And I voted to advance LB 126 the other day, with the understanding that these funds would be available. And so I will be opposing this amendment, in an effort to keep those funds coming for the next three years to those districts that we're addressing. So, thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Burling. Senator Heidemann, yours is the last light. You may either speak to the issue, or you may close. Senator Heidemann, you may either speak to the issue, or you may close. You say which.

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: I'll just close real briefly. I understand the concern, what this is going to do. I understand why some senators had to stand up and speak in opposition. But the bottom line is, we are still appropriating money to help in the transition because of LB 126. I'm not out here to hurt anybody.