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Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of LB 996. It's been interesting to watch the process over the last several years relating to the cemetery. I truly believe that if we had as much local participation as the community of Alliance is willing to make, if we had as much local participation in other areas of state government, we could probably decrease our budget significantly. But I appreciate what they have done with the public-private effort. Senator Loudon's priority for this issue speaks for itself. And I hope that we can advance this forward. It is something small that we can do that I think is good for rural Nebraska, and certainly balances out some of those things that tend to flow east most of the time. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Further discussion, LB 996? Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I am not rising as committee Chair to offer any amendments on this bill, because it's a relatively simple bill. It's just a simple change to allow the funds to be gotten out of General Funds. And I have to say, this is an issue that's been before us for a lot of time. There have been a lot of people that have been involved in this at the local, the state, and the federal level. And I would just like to say that I think this is a very excellent plan and solution for locating a veterans cemetery in Alliance, and think Senator Loudon needs kudos for his persistence, because he has persisted. And I'm glad to see this bill up here this morning moving forward. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Foley, on the Loudon LB 996.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I also rise in support of LB 996, and want to thank Senator Loudon for his work on this bill and for prioritizing it. I wonder if Senator Loudon would just yield to a question or two, so we can...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Loudon, would you...