

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

March 27, 2006 LB 990

some capital to be able to gear up to meet the demand for their product. And they just needed to, from a business standpoint, they needed an infusion of capital in order to be able to be what they were going to be when they grew up.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay, thank you, Senator Brown. That answers my questions. I'll return the balance of my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I do stand in support of Senator Brown's amendment. Not going to dwell on different parts of it. But as has been stated before, I think that this is a need in Nebraska. We are one of the few states that do not have such programs. And there is definitely a need. I know last year in the Rural Development Commission as we were looking at priorities that we wanted to support, this was certainly something that came before us. We felt that we couldn't do everything in one year. But I'm glad to see the amendment back because it is an important part of what we did last year, particularly Senator Cunningham's bill that looked at entrepreneurship in different communities. And as has been stated, I think particularly in our rural communities, this is where this venture capital is needed, to conduct those programs, to assist those new businesses or, as Senator Brown said, sometimes there are businesses that have grown and need to expand and need some help in doing this. So I stand in support of the amendment in the fact that I do believe it is something that Nebraska needs. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President and members. One of the things that I wanted to speak to, because I don't want it to seem like we are talking about big businesses, there were a number of big businesses that I referenced who have contributed significantly to the matching money. But this is really about the little guy. This is about businesses, somebody who has a good idea who needs money to start out. A small business, very small business, who has the opportunity to grow that needs capital to get going. But it's mostly about how our state,