



One Hundred First Legislature - First Special Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 16

LB 16 would prevent reductions in funding the following three critical rural economic development programs: Microenterprise Development Act, Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act (BECA), and Ag Opportunities and Value Partnerships Act.

Chairperson: Lavon Heidemann
Committee: Appropriations
Date of Hearing: November 10, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

These programs are very important to rural economic development and are the kind of programs that will help Nebraska's economy recover. Below is a brief summary of the scope of these programs:

The Microenterprise Development Act funds loans, training and technical assistance for businesses with up to five employees in urban and rural Nebraska.

BECA makes grants to rural communities to develop new leaders, support entrepreneurship, recruit new residents, engage youth and promote local philanthropic giving for community development.

The Ag Opportunities and Value Added Partnership Act makes grants to farmers and ranchers to develop new value added markets and products.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Ken Haar