

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 14**

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WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked first among all states for the lowest per capita debt by CNNMoney.com in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked in a tie for first place among states for condition of urban and rural interstates by the Reason Foundation in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked first among all states for commercial red meat production in 2009, for commercial cattle slaughter and live weight slaughter in 2009, and for great northern bean production in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked second among states for employment leaders by Business Facilities in 2010, putting Nebraska ahead of all six of its surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked second among states for avoiding fiscal peril by the Pew Center on the States in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked second among states for fiscal constraint on growth by GrowthEconomics in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked second among states for best job markets in the Gallup Job Creation Index in 2010, putting Nebraska ahead of all six of its surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked second among all states for total number of all cattle and calves on January 1, 2010, and for total number of cattle on feed on January 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked second among all states for pinto bean and millet production in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked third among the states for fiscal fitness in the global debt crisis by Forbes.com in 2010, putting Nebraska ahead of all six of its surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked third among states for low unemployment by Business Insider in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked as the third best legal climate among states by the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform and by GrowthEconomics in 2010, putting Nebraska ahead of all six of its surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska tied for third among states for economic confidence in a ranking by Gallup in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked third among all states for corn and grain sorghum production in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked third lowest among states experiencing economic stress by the Associated Press in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fourth among states for quality of life by Business Facilities in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fourth among states for volunteering by the Corporation for National and Community Service in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fourth among states for lowest commercial and residential electricity prices by the Taxpayers Network in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fourth among states for production of all leading commodities by the Taxpayers Network in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fourth among all states for all dry edible bean production in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked as the fifth best state for business by Directorship in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fifth among all states for strongest job market by Juju.com in 2010, putting Nebraska ahead of all six of its surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fifth among states for best education climate by Business Facilities in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fifth among states for performance of state highway systems by the Reason Foundation in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fifth among states for lowest state debt per capita by the Tax Foundation in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fifth among states for all crop production by the Taxpayers Network in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fifth among states for lowest average daily traffic per lane on all principal arterials by the Taxpayers Network in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked fifth among states for soybean production in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked sixth among states for pro-business environment by Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc. in 2010, putting Nebraska ahead of all six of its surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked sixth among states for business costs by Forbes.com in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked sixth among all states for most affordable car insurance by InsWeb in 2010, putting Nebraska ahead of all six of its surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked sixth among states for lowest commercial natural gas prices by the Taxpayers Network in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked sixth among states for best litigation climate by Directorship in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked sixth among all states for the number of hogs and pigs on farms on December 1, 2009, and for winter wheat production in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked seventh among states for lowest energy cost in an energy cost index developed by the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked seventh among all states for alfalfa hay and all hay production, and for commercial hog slaughter and live weight slaughter in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked eighth among states for least expensive closing costs by U.S. News and World Report in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked eighth among states in biofuels manufacturing research leaders by Business Facilities in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was one of eight states to receive a green rating for the best places to avoid a recession by NewGeography.com in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked eighth among states for lowest incarceration rate by the Taxpayers Network in 2010, putting Nebraska ahead of all six of its surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked eighth among states for highest SAT scores by the College Board in 2009 and was ranked ninth in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked ninth among best states for business by Forbes.com in 2009 and 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked ninth among the most enterprise-friendly states by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Chamber Foundation in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked ninth among states for interstate, freeway, and arterial condition rating by the Taxpayers Network in 2010, putting Nebraska ahead of all six of its surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked ninth among states for lowest industrial electricity prices by the Taxpayers Network in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked tenth among states for lowest industrial and residential natural gas prices by the Taxpayers Network in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked tenth among all states for wheat production by the Taxpayers Network in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska was ranked eleventh in human capital investment by the Milken Institute in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked first in a list of recession-proof cities by the Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked first in a list of fastest recovering cities, and the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area was ranked best bang-for-the-buck city by Forbes.com in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked second among cities for business resiliency by MarketWatch in 2010, putting Omaha ahead of all cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked third among cities as best for business by MarketWatch in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked third among mid-sized metro cities for small business startups by CNNMoney.com in 2009, putting Omaha ahead of all the mid-sized metro cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked third among cities where Americans are getting richer in 2009 and was ranked third safest for traffic fatality rank in cities with a population over two hundred fifty thousand in 2010 by Forbes.com; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked fifth among best places to start over by Bloomberg Businessweek in 2009, putting Omaha ahead of all other cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked fifth safest city among cities with a population over two hundred fifty thousand by Forbes.com in 2010, putting Omaha ahead of all other cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked sixth among affordable places to retire by Yahoo! Real Estate in 2009, putting Omaha ahead of all other cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked sixth among mid-sized cities for best places to live and work for next generation workers by Next Generation Consulting in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area was named the nation's sixth most livable metro area by Forbes.com in 2010, and none of the six states surrounding Nebraska, with the exception of the connection to Council Bluffs, Iowa, had a metro area in the top ten; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked seventh in the nation among metro cities as the best place for business and careers by Forbes.com in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked eighth among cities for best undervalued places to live by IHS Global Insight in 2009, putting Omaha ahead of all other cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked as the eighth top metro area for corporate real estate projects by Site Selection Magazine in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked eighth among top growth cities by U-Haul International in 2009, putting Omaha ahead of all the cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked ninth in a list of the best cities for families by Parenting.com in 2010, putting Omaha ahead of any other city in the six states surrounding Nebraska, and Lincoln was ranked twelfth in the same list; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked ninth among cities having an awesome recovery by Business Insider in 2010, putting Omaha ahead of all the cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked ninth among the top ten fittest cities in America by Men's Fitness in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked tenth among the most recession-resistant cities by the Brookings Institution in 2009, putting Omaha ahead of all the cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked eleventh among the best large cities for job growth by NewGeography.com in 2009, putting Omaha ahead of all other large cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked twelfth among the best cheap cities by Forbes.com in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked sixteenth and Lincoln was ranked thirty-third in a list of the top one hundred best places in the nation to raise a family by Best Life in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked twentieth among cities in a list of the best labor markets for young adults by Portfolio.com in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked twenty-fifth among cities for sustainability by SustainLane.com in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was ranked forty-second in a list of the top fifty best bike cities by Bicycling Magazine in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Omaha was listed in the top twenty most employed cities by Business Insider in 2010; and



WHEREAS, Omaha was listed as one of America's twenty-five strongest housing markets by Forbes.com in 2009, putting Omaha ahead of all other cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln was ranked second in a list of the best cities for a housing recovery by Forbes.com in 2009, putting Lincoln ahead of all other cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln was ranked third among cities for longest life for women and sixteenth overall for women, and Omaha was ranked twenty-eighth overall among cities for women by Women's Health in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln was ranked third in a list of the best cities for babies by Parents.com in 2010, putting Lincoln ahead of all other cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln was ranked fourth in a list of the best cities to raise a family by Children's Health Magazine in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln was ranked fifth in the nation among metro cities as the best place for business and careers by Forbes.com in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln tied for ninth place in a list of the nation's most livable metro areas by Forbes.com in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln was ranked ninth among cities for safest drivers by Allstate Insurance Company in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln was ranked ninth overall among cities for men by Men's Health in 2010, putting Lincoln ahead of all other cities in the six states surrounding Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln was ranked thirteenth among small metro college cities to live in by the American Institute for Economic Research in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln was ranked sixteenth among cities for most affordable housing by CNNMoney.com in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln was listed among the top one hundred places to live in 2010 by RelocateAmerica; and

WHEREAS, Papillion was ranked third among cities in a list of best places to live and fourteenth for affordable housing by CNNMoney.com in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Norfolk was ranked eighteenth among cities for quality of life and ninety-eighth for best places to live by CNNMoney.com in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Kearney was ranked twenty-fourth among cities for quality of life and quickest commute by CNNMoney.com in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Columbus was ranked ninety-ninth among cities for best places to live by CNNMoney.com in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Madison County was ranked second, Platte County was ranked third, and Sarpy County was ranked fourth in the top ten best places for jobs in the United States by Money Magazine in 2009, putting these three counties ahead of all the counties of all six of Nebraska's surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, Kool-Aid Days in Hastings and the North Platte Rail Fest have been selected among the top one hundred events for 2011 by the American Bus Association and Destinations magazine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates the Department of Economic Development and its affiliates, the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its affiliates, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates, the Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates, the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates, the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates, the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates, the North Platte Area Chamber of Commerce and Development Corporation, and the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates for their diligence and efforts to keep Nebraska competitive and vibrant.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Department of Economic Development, the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, the Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce, the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce, the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce, the North Platte Area Chamber of Commerce and Development Corporation, and the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce.