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FLOOR DEBATE

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certainly appreciate Senator Coordsen bringing this bill forth for your consideration and hope you will look at it favorably and we can move on and continue to assist some of these districts in coming to the final decision of what they want to do with their district. Again, thank you, Senator Coordsen, for your work on this piece of legislation, and I hope the body will see fit to move it forward. With that, thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Further debate on the advancement of LB 313? Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. I, too, would like to speak in favor of LB 313. In the last two years there have been three consolidations in my district and one unification with five different schools. And we have promised that we'll give them some incentive money if they would do that; and then only to find out that the funds were inadequate; it was kind of a blow. And so I'm also in favor of extending the time period and more dollars for more to do it, but especially we need to hold true to our promise that we would give incentive money to those schools that have already done this. I think they have worked out really very well. Many of them have gone into a lot of time and debate, discussion and to try to do the best thing for their schools. And I know that the incentive money has been an encouragement for them to do that. And over the years we've heard a lot of debate on how we have too many school districts and how we need to unify many of them. And I think the incentive money has been a good encouragement for them to do it. And I'm sure that there is going to be many more take place. So I would like to encourage you to vote yes on this bill; I think it's a very good one. I think it just comes back to show that we are...we will make good on the promises that we have made that we will give this incentive money. With that, I'd like to turn the rest of my time back to the Chair. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Beutler, on the advancement of LB 313.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it's been a sleepy time so far in the Legislature, perhaps