

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT (UPDATED)**  
**LB719**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday January 20, 2026  
**Committee On:** Banking, Commerce and Insurance  
**Introducer:** Jacobson  
**One Liner:** Redefine a term under the Nebraska Rural Projects Act

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Jacobson, Bostar, Dungan, Hallstrom, Hardin, Riepe, von Gillern, Wordekemper  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Mike Jacobson  
Gary Person  
  
Megan Skiles

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
North Platte Area Chamber & Development /  
Nebraska International Port of the Plains  
Greater Fremont Development Council / Greater  
Omaha Chamber / Nebraska Economic Developer's  
Association / Nebraska Chamber of Commerce

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 719 is a bill designed to expand the scope of the Nebraska Rural Projects Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-12,195 to 81-12,218). The primary goal of the legislation is to broaden the definition of a "project" to better facilitate the development of industrial rail access business parks in rural areas. By redefining what qualifies for state support, the bill allows for the inclusion of infrastructure costs even when those improvements occur on land not directly owned by the applicant, such as public rights-of-way or easements, provided they are essential to the park's success. This bill also includes the emergency clause.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM 1752 makes a technical clarification by adding natural gas to the list of eligible utility infrastructure. Natural gas is often a critical utility for industrial rail park projects and can involve significant upfront study and infrastructure costs.

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Explicitly listing it avoids ambiguity and ensures it is treated consistently with other utilities already allowed under the Act. This does not expand the program or change oversight.

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Mike Jacobson, Chairperson

