

our state. It is my desire that this Legislature go on record to the Board of Southeast Community College imploring them to be sure they have, in fact, studied all the options available to them before they consider merging or closing that campus and that they make their decision not totally based on the bottom line of full-time profitability per student. We, as a legislative body, have made a commitment to the campus at Peru in bad times and in good times and I am asking that Southeast Community College Board in their position also make the same kind of a commitment for educational facilities outside of major metropolitan areas in our state. I would ask your support in this resolution for education at the postsecondary level outside the major metropolitan areas in Nebraska. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis, then Senator Eret.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, the last time this issue came before us, not the Fairbury issue but the one that I see at the heart of this resolution, I voted but I didn't speak. So today I thought I would explain not only the vote that I am about to make but the vote I made at the beginning of the session in opposition to Senator Vickers' resolution on the Curtis station. It seems to me that budgeting by legislative resolution is a mistake. We have to trust the basic processes of our own budget committee or in this case local political subdivisions somewhat. I do respect the difference that in this case we are talking about the use of fiscal oversight, the request for study, the request to take in a breadth of information and I am asking for commitment for educational opportunity. But this is a thin disguise for, in my mind, what is probably at work here and that is to give budgetary support for one side or the other of an important economic question. I am going to vote red on this just like I voted red on the Curtis resolution. This is not the way to budget. This is not the way to dictate fiscal priorities and I would simply suggest that we leave ourselves, I think, a very real opening for being misinterpreted, for meaning to be implied from what should be the casual statement of legislative values if we do undertake this kind of resolution. I understand Senator Morehead's concern for her district. I feel very much that she is being as conscientious as she can. She has also drafted the resolution in a way that is not binding, that doesn't require them to come to one particular result or