

Invest Nebraska Act, LB620 Qualified Activity Reported in 2005

The Invest Nebraska Act requires a separate application subject to approval by the Invest Nebraska Board. The members of the board are the Governor, the State Treasurer, and the chairperson on the Nebraska Investment Council. A qualifying business selects one of the following options in their application:

1. \$10 million investment and 25 new employees whose annual wage exceeds the Nebraska average annual wage. This option is only available for projects located outside of counties with 100,000 or more in population.
2. \$50 million investment and 500 new employees OR \$100M and 250 new employees. The new employees annual wage must exceed 110% of the Nebraska average annual wage.
3. \$200 million investment and 500 new employees whose annual wage exceeds 120% of the Nebraska average annual wage.

If the company reaches and maintains the selected level, they are eligible for benefits. An eligible company earns a wage benefit credit from 0 to 5 percent of the taxable wages paid to new employees earning more than the required wage level. A company selecting Option 3 may receive, in lieu of a wage benefit credit, an alternate investment tax credit equal to fifteen percent of the investment. The company is to expend at least the value of the wage benefit credit or alternate investment tax credit for company training programs, employee benefit programs, educational institution training programs or workplace safety programs.

The agreement specifies the option elected and the available benefits. The wage benefit credit and the alternate investment tax credit may be used for 100% of the income tax liability. The wage benefit credit may also be used to retain a portion of the Nebraska individual income tax withholding employer liability.

Thirteen applications have been approved by the Invest Nebraska Board and thirteen agreements signed under LB 620. There is one application pending which has not had a meeting with the Invest Nebraska Board.

No company has shown they met the required minimum levels of investment and employment to qualify for benefits. Therefore, no credits were allowed and no investment or new jobs are reported.

No new applications may be filed after June 1, 2005, without further authorization from the Legislature.

Agreements Signed in 2001 That are Still in Effect

Company Name	Project Type	Project Location
1. Union Pacific Railroad Company	\$200M + 500 emp	Omaha

Agreements Signed in 2003 That are Still in Effect

Company Name	Project Type	Project Location
1. American Meter Company, Inc.	\$33M + 80 emp	Nebraska City
2. Natura Manufacturing Inc.	\$10M + 25 emp	Fremont
3. Nordic Biofuels of Ravenna, LLC	\$95M + 100 emp	Ravenna
4. Wal-Mart Stores East, Inc.	\$10M + 25 emp	North Platte

Agreements Signed in 2004 That are Still in Effect

Company Name	Project Type	Project Location
1. Beef Products, Inc.	\$15M + 25 emp	South Sioux City
2. Degussa Corporation	\$75M + 30 emp	Blair
3. Platte Valley Fuel Ethanol, LLC	\$55M + 32 emp	Central City and Columbus
4. Trenton Agri Products, LLC	\$32M + 27 emp	Trenton

Agreements Signed in 2005 That are Still in Effect

Company Name	Project Type	Project Location
1. E Energy Adams, LLC	\$68M + 32 emp	Adams
2. NE Colorado Cellular, Inc.	\$11.5M + 32 emp	Grand Island, Hastings, Norfolk, North Platte, Scottsbluff, and other locations in western and central Nebraska
3. S W Energy, LLC	\$55M + 44 emp	McCook
4. Standard Iron, Inc.	\$10.6M + 31 emp	Grand Island