

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose this amendment. In the first place, we have the University of Nebraska studying this. In the second place, we have an Energy Commission which our Chairman is heading up and I think doing a good job, and thirdly, these solar energy units are not perfect. They are far from it and I think that the State of Nebraska is spending plenty of money now attempting to find out what is with these solar units. My experience in my area is that these solar outfits are not standing behind their product. Their products are far from perfect. They are not doing what they are advertising they will do and I don't want to have any part of this even though, Senator Newell, it is a small amount and I would not begrudge it because of that, but if I thought there was something that this could be done that would be advantageous, I would support it. But in view of the fact that these solar units are so inferior, at least so far, I certainly would not think we would want to be wasting money even though it would be a small amount.

PRESIDENT: Will you close debate, Senator Newell?

SENATOR NEWELL: All right, just in closing real quickly, some of the suggestions that Senator Nichol, or not suggestions, either, some of the debate Senator Nichol engaged in I think is something that I have been greatly concerned about myself. I think that there are some concerns about the merits of these units and whether or not they are trustworthy, whether they are dependable, as the claims have been made, and that is exactly why I propose that we have this one project before we endeavor to go into this area in any greater and any more active way but just have this one project to find out whether or not it works. The cost, I think, is well worth the experimentation, and as many of you know, there is pressure on this Legislature year in and year out to try to provide for credits, for long term exemptions and that sort of stuff and I think before we make those changes in legislation, before we provide those credits, that we ought to have some experience about just how useful and how beneficial these projects will be. \$10,000 and \$1,000 for a study of this project is very cheap in terms of finding out whether or not the claims that have been made are legitimate claims and I think this is the best way for the State of Nebraska to have an idea whether or not there is, in fact, some real economical benefit or whether or not these claims are grossly exaggerated. So unlike Senator Nichol, I don't say that we ought not try it because there may, in fact, be gross exaggerations about what they can do. I think with this small amount of money, with this one time project, that it is a good investment so that we will, in fact, know and so the State of Nebraska can have a very good idea whether or not these will be beneficial, whether they are economical and whether they will save money and I think if we do not do this, we will find that in the future that this experience will be lost and we may endeavor to appropriate a heck of a lot more money, wasted money, if we do not have this experience and understanding. So I would hope the body would accept this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter, Senator Newell was closing.