

would be actually hurt, hurt badly. I think that in most areas, contrary to what Senator Weihing is saying, in most areas where the alternate crops are a viable part of that agricultural industry, the majority, the vast majority of those crops are raised under contract not unlike a situation that could develop in Nebraska today under whatever restrictions that we do have in place on the books. I fail to see where this particular law, proposed bill, would create anything, a situation any different than should we repeal the corporate ban or the constitutional ban on corporate farming. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Weihing, please.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I first want to make a correction. I was asked if corporations, two corporations, could form a business...term...partner...not partnership, but trust, and they can. Senator Coordsen, they can. I would say that the people of Nebraska do have a vested interest, a very definite vested interest in this. It is...there is nothing illegal about this. It is a business tactic, a system of business. This is not an attack on Initiative 300. It is a business activity that is outside of Initiative 300. I find it very interesting to see how empty the Chamber has become. You would think it was ringed with machine guns. I'm not afraid of Initiative 300. I'm willing to discuss Initiative 300. You know when we talk about Initiative 300 being a savior, I had my aide take a look at what the number of farms in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Colorado in 1982 and in 1986 and, interestingly, in Nebraska we've had a decline, I want you to listen to this, we've had a decline of 9.52 percent of farms in Nebraska. Colorado doesn't have Initiative 300. It has had a decline of 3.27. Iowa doesn't have Initiative 300. It's had a decline of only 6.84. I've got a hoot owl over here. And Kansas, another neighbor, has a decline of 6.67. Now that is rather interesting. Who has been losing the farms by a significant margin? The state which has Initiative 300, the savior of the family farm. That is the conclusion of my remarks right at the moment, unless there is something else.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Baack, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Mr. Speaker and members, I'd like to address a couple of things that were brought up. First of all, it was brought up about why couldn't the small family farmer provide these crops for a vegetable processor and the main reason is, is because the small family farmer simply does not have the capital