

don't, I guess, if it is Schellpeper's bill, I probably don't support it. But I just want to make sure we make the right vote, and I don't want to see us get into trouble with any impairment of contracts sort of problems in the future. If this amendment causes major, major damage to 364, I probably am not going to support it and run the risk of...but I haven't heard that argument as to how 'his causes major, major damage to the bill in 'his particular case. So I'm going to listen to additional arguments and discussion.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. Just a couple of points to respond, and I don't wish to take the body's, too much of the body's time, but it is important. You know, I think of all the investment opportunities in Omaha and Lincoln, well, just in Nebraska that we try to do, and one of the things that we, as a policy, as lawmakers, we set up an ethanol board and we put monies into it or there was money put into it via the checkoff program and other areas, entities, put monies into it, and this board did a very careful evaluation and screening because they did not want to risk the taxpayers money as well. In fact, this board was so careful about losing on a bad investment Nebraska taxpayers' monies that they set up a criteria that said that a person, in this case an entity, and think about it, members of the body, how many of you would make this type of commitment that this corporate, this company in Sutherland has made to Nebraska. The ethanol authority said we are so leery about losing money on a bad investment that we are going to set up a criteria, before you get anything from the state, that you have to have your plant built. You have to have it operating for 72 hours at 75 percent capacity. We are going to give you a deadline to do it, and you have to be debt-free on the plant. You can't mortgage the plant to help get financing. That's how careful the ethanol board was in trying to screen out those that potentially would be a bad investment. This company, these people said we will meet that challenge. They have put their own money into Nebraska. They have put their own toil in Nebraska. These were people not originally from Nebraska. They could've gone to any other state. They came here because they like the state, they liked the environment, they liked what we had to offer. But what we have to offer now is a violation of the one contract that is outstanding. We are going to say thank you for doing that investment. We are still...you don't pass