

March 10, 1994

LB 984

SENATOR HALL: Bingo. Mr. President, members,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: ...AM...no, it's not. AM3542 is found on page 1023, as is the other amendments that were withdrawn, and one other one that I'm going to offer. I've talked to Senator Wehrbein this morning and told him that I would withdraw the two amendments that were just withdrawn. One deals with the...dealt with the excise tax and increasing it six cents. It makes no sense, after the decision by the body to strike the excise tax from the committee amendments yesterday, to continue to pursue that issue, even though I believe that the excise tax is probably the way that this program could be funded into the future. But be that as it is, it is no longer a viable option, so that amendment goes away. What 3542 does and this amendment, it reads like this, it says any ethanol facility eligible for tax credits or incentives under the Ethanol Development Act, the Employment and Investment Growth Act, or the Employment Expansion and Investment Incentive Act shall, whenever possible, employ workers who are residents of the State of Nebraska. It's basically intent language. It asks that the folks who are eligible for these employ Nebraska workers. I think when we allow for incentives, as we have in these funds, that it is necessary, not only necessary but our duty to make sure that the individuals who are employed at these operations are Nebraska people, and the amendment as it's written is not an absolute mandate, but it's close, and I think it ought to be that way. What we have seen in, for example, I know in the Chief operation, out in the Kearney area of the state, they have done an outstanding job in this area. They have hired and trained Nebraska folks. I'd like to see that across the state for other operations that are proposed to go on-line, and I believe that the amendment sends the right kind of message that the developers of these operations should have no problem with this type of legislation. And I don't believe that in any way it would put a damper on a program if individuals are not...are coming to Nebraska and looking to us to help subsidize the development of ethanol, the production of it, and also looking in the area of the construction, I think, for us to say as a public policy-making body that it makes sense that Nebraskans be employed there. I think it's our opportunity to do that and I would hope that the body would support this amendment. Thank you.

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