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LB 536, 620

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, rise in opposition to Senator Dierks' amendment, but I also want to say something to Senator Chambers directly in the fact that we have a cheap food policy in the United States, in this country. We spend less a percentage of our income on food than any other developing country. Why? It is actually because the farmers do not receive a fair price for their commodities. It's very difficult for us to attract industry in the rural areas. We need incentive programs to help to bring these plants, any kind of industry that can provide jobs for our people. I think often we...we do forget and, in LB 536 there are not very many other industries that are actually contributing and supporting the cost of bringing these industries to our...our area. We are checking off part of our percentage, a half cent per bushel, on the grain that we produce for the opportunity to bring these industries to our area so that we may have some jobs and bring some of that wealth to our individual counties to help in our reduction of taxes. So I will be opposing this amendment. I've always been a strong supporter of ethanol and will continue to be a strong supporter because I think it is the one shining light that we have been able to attract and bring some jobs to our economies in the rural areas. With that, I turn the rest of my time back to the Chair. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Smith, on the Dierks amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I rise in support of Senator Dierks' amendment and I believe that the more we can tailor specific incentives to a specific industry the better off we are, and I think that precludes repetition and...and placing into state statute the double use, perhaps, of various incentives. So I just wanted to rise in support of the Dierks amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Dierks, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the