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difference in this state. We are talking about ag extension programs. We are talking about energy efficiency education programs. We are talking about solar workshops. We are talking about efforts that have already been undertaken and can now be expanded and maintained in light of the federal cuts that are on the way, that have helped Nebraska, that have proven themselves, that have earned their continuation in the State of Nebraska. Now so many of you don't seem to care at all as I look around the room as you discuss with one another whatever you are discussing. I don't see a bit of concern about the energy problem. You don't care, do you? It just is amazing to me. The energy crisis, there is nothing more important in this state at this point. It is what is causing our inflation right now. Can you understand the problems that we are facing with the energy crisis, with the oil problems that we have had? We have seen the inflation come. We have seen the disruption of our economy. We see worse things in the future and yet your reaction is nonconcern. It is inattention. It is nonsupport of an effort to try and deal with the problem, and when you go back to your constituents and they say, "I can't pay my utility bills. I can't afford to heat my home in the winter." What is your answer going to be? What are you going to say you have done to help with that problem? What is your response going to be? Is it going to be to turn your back on a bill that is going to help the situation or are you going to support a potential solution to a problem that is as serious as any in this state? What is your response going to be? I hope it is a positive response. But when I go to talk to my constituents, and I have asked them what are the problems you face? They tell me energy. I can't pay my utility bills. I can't drive my car anymore. I can't afford the gasoline. I can't do all kinds of things as a result of the problems we have. Our businesses are closing. Our industry is having to shut down because of the fact they can't afford the cost of energy anymore. We can do something about that. This bill attempts to do something about that. Each of you has relatives that are in situations such as my grandfather. My grandfather when he lived at home still heated one room in his house, his bedroom, and that was it and the rest of the house was closed off. And in the middle of the winter in his house he had to wear a heavy winter coat because he could not afford to pay his utility bills. This is several years ago, and since that time you have seen energy prices increase dramatically and they are going to get worse, not better. You know of the natural gas decontrol efforts they are undertaking right now. You are going to see a doubling of natural gas prices in a couple of years. You are going to see electricity prices increasing twenty percent a year and I think you have

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