

support of it on General File, and other people have come up to me afterwards and expressed their support of the bill, that I hope and trust that it will pass. It is something that we need to enact in our state just to make us in step with all the other states in our country as far as the way we host and treat visitors and...

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator McFarland. The call is raised. Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: ...business people in our state. I think I'll just read a couple notes about the reasons for the Protocol Office. We need to become more globally aware of the export needs of Nebraska products, that's one thing the Protocol Office could help. We need for official contact with these foreign visitors. We need it to be in an organized and structured fashion and not the haphazard way it has been done in the past. We need to eliminate the confusion and the embarrassment when we have foreign visitors and dignitaries in our state. And I think many foreign visitors...many foreign countries are much more hospitable to their visitors and I think Senator Barrett talking about his trip to Germany was an excellent example of that. We need to compile files and records and information on foreign visitors, familiarity with their customs and language. We need to provide for a system of expenses and gifts. Currently, many of these gifts are provided on an ad hoc basis. I'm told, for example, that when this Russian delegation visited here just recently that what's...what State Treasurer Marsh was wearing, as far as a hat and a coat and a shawl, or whatever it was, was a gift from them. He wore that because they had brought that with them. And I am told that the gift in exchange that was given to the visitors from Russia who visited our state, they gave them a plastic lapel pin with the State of Nebraska on it. These are the kind of things that just should not happen. A Protocol Office would ensure that these things do not happen and I would urge for your advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, I, obviously, rise to oppose the advancement of this bill. This morning I think the body said a couple of things. First off, on the first amendment that I offered, well, you know, we said on General File this was going to be a great thing for agriculture, but it's not such a good enough idea that the commodity boards and agriculture