

where they will make some investments in some companies and see, hopefully, this whole entire market begin to expand in Nebraska. I would add to this body that a resolution has been offered by the Agriculture Committee to study the Ethanol Authority, to look into their financial background. And some of the questions that Senator Haberman raised in a bill he presented to the Agriculture Committee this year that is still in the Agriculture Committee. I think that the committee is committed into looking into the points of allegations that Senator Haberman has brought up. I think the Appropriations Committee has also done some checking in examining the budget of the authority. And I think we have several people checking into the authority's operations. But at this time I think we do need to enact LB 587. I'd like to see the bill stay as it is now written rather than adopting a number of amendments, but if it would make people feel more comfortable with the authority, if we have some checks and balances there, that is fine with me. But at this time I plan on supporting Senator Schmit's amendment. As he said, it's very difficult to track Nebraska grain across the state and around the country, and I don't know if the Haberman amendment can actually work that well if, in fact, we're going to use Nebraska grain. Now I suppose most of the grain that is being processed to make ethanol in Hastings right now is Nebraska grain, but if you happen to build a plant on the border of Nebraska and Scottsbluff, or Blair, for example, you may very well receive grain from, in some cases, Wyoming, Colorado, or Iowa...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: So I would see that that would cut off markets that the people operating an ethanol plant would have, so I think it's important that we amend the Haberman amendment. As I said, there are a number of amendments forthcoming. I don't plan to speak to all of them, as a matter of fact this probably will be my only speech on this issue. I would just tell the committee or tell the body that the Ag Committee is going to look into this whole issue this summer, and hopefully we'll answer some of the questions that certain members of this body have about the operations of this Ethanol Authority.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith, your light is on. Would you care to speak to the amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question of Senator Haberman. Senator Haberman, first of