

states who have more densely populated areas who do not need to travel the great distances which we must travel here in the ordinary, normal course of business. I do concur with Senator Wesely that the United States government has almost deliberately destroyed the domestic oil industry, to the extent that we have done so, and to the extent that their actions have discouraged exploration in this country we have encourage the importation of foreign oil. I think we should view that very seriously. But I do not believe that the establishment of a gasoline tax at the federal level, to curb the federal deficit, would in any way be conducive to discouraging the importation of foreign oil. I want to just point out that, for those of us who travel from time to time by air, that the federal tax on aviation gasoline and the tax on our airline tickets are such a lucrative source of revenue to the federal government that most of us realize that we have no control on that at all, and that money is expended with a very, very loose hand. Anywhere you go, any part of the country the most active kind of construction is always around our major airports. And they just have so much money there that they don't know how to spend it all. And I recognize that airline travel is here to stay, and we're going to need to have some expanded airports. But when you view these monuments that are being built today I wonder whether or not the money is being spent correctly. It's money which is not well budgeted. And I'm afraid that once they were able to dip into the federal gasoline tax, supposedly for the purpose of reducing the deficit, the temptation to use that same source of revenue for other purposes, most of which I'm sure we would not agree with, would be overwhelming. So I would think that it would be just good frugal business judgment for us to pass this resolution. And I would hope that Senator Wesely would reconsider his decision not to vote for it, because I think that we've got a responsibility to express our deep concern, not that we wouldn't like to see the federal budget deficit reduced, but that we do not want to tap into a source of revenue which has historically been limited in its utilization for untold numbers of purposes.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield is next, followed by Senator Chambers. But may I introduce some guests, please, who have just come in. In the north balcony Senator Wehbein has guests there. There are 12 seniors from Nebraska City and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you for visiting us this morning. Senator Scofield, please.