

certain that we have a steady stream of product that conforms with rules and regulations of both the...of the breweries as well as of the State of Nebraska in dealing with beer product. It creates an orderly market, meaning that one of the concerns that has been brought to me by the consumers in this area and retailers is, through the retail market, is how are we going to ensure that our...that we have a wholesaler that will service our territory in a proper way in our area? And this bill will, as far as can be done I think in legislation, preserve continuous service by maintaining markets. You will not have the situation, hopefully, where a large brewer would select maybe that Omaha as the location for its only wholesaler in the State of Nebraska and that you would not have the kind of penetration in greater Nebraska that is necessary to service the retailers in that area. The bill is quite lengthy and somewhat involved. It is needed legislation and it, as reflected by several court cases throughout the country on this subject, it will decrease the necessity for any litigation in this area which is in franchise cases can be extremely costly and time consuming. It provides provisions for arbitration and other easier methods of dealing with problems that come up between brewers and wholesalers. The bill, as I mentioned earlier, does have requirements set out for...to protect the interests of the retailer. It, for example, requires that the equipment that is utilized be maintained and clean, the product to be rotated and that dated products be removed from the shelves. It also regulates that the relationship to some degree between the wholesaler and the retailer, so that there would be a prohibition against selling beer to a retailer who does not have a location within the wholesaler's market, which is certainly a consumer issue and an issue for the orderly regulation of the product, and also requires that a wholesaler shall not sell beer to a retailer who the wholesaler reasonably knows does not have a location within the wholesaler's territory except for temporary service. So we have orderly markets preserved. We have service preserved throughout the State of Nebraska. Consumer interests are taken care of in this bill. I appreciate Senator Smith's and her committee's work on this bill. I appreciate Senator Haberman in his decision to make this his priority bill. It was extremely helpful to the wholesalers and others and consumers who are interested in this piece of legislation. Thank you for your indulgence and I would encourage that this bill be moved on to Select File. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. An amendment on the desk,