

What I'd hoped the body would focus on is there are not just a few, there are a lot of people out there in agriculture industry who would like to diversify, who would like to do something different, who are excited because they know they can do it. They don't have a lot of power, they don't have some big voices, they don't have a lot of money behind them. But, doggone it, were represent those people and they deserve to have a chance. Now Senator Wehrbein mentioned before maybe this isn't the year, I don't know when the year is. I thought it was two years ago when we had the bill passed. I thought maybe it had been last year when we had all the meetings and things and people really got excited about it. I thought it would certainly be this year when we have the millions coming in that we're trying to decide what to do with the millions, whether we put it back in property tax relief, or income tax breaks, whatever we're going to do. This is the year. And we have an industry in Nebraska that Nebraskans and we in the Senate...Legislature have always said we want to diversify, we want to find new ways of doing so. We've got something here, people, we've got something here. These people don't speak loud but they are honest and true Nebraskans, they'll work hard, and I guarantee you this 50,000 invested in this position, regardless of the system at the University of Nebraska, regardless of that system, this \$50,000 will earn a reward by these people far, far in excess of what we'll ever hope to get by some of the money we directly allocate to particular programs. It's a small thing for the Legislature to do for a big gain for Nebraskans, and I would urge the adoption of the amendment. I would give whatever time I have remaining to Senator Wesely.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Approximately two minutes, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Fairly briefly, Mr. Speaker, I think Senator Withem hit it on the head. Again, this program was mandated by the Legislature two years ago. We could not find the funding. They did not put it in the request, however, that doesn't mean it isn't a good program. What it means is that we have got to reach in some times to the university and recognize that outside in the real world there are potentials being unrealized, that the university can be a catalyst for. Senator Scofield talked about they are so small, these others are established programs. Well, part of the thing we try and do is take these small ideas, these small concepts and help them grow and develop, that this Legislature has to recognize potential sometimes to provide that assistance that is there to