

meantime, however, I think the funds should be available for the board to invest if they find a project or two that they might feel is worthy of an investment. With that, I would also like to turn the remainder of my time, whatever that is, to Senator Smith.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Senator Johnson. I would just like to respond to a couple of comments that were made. Number one, yes, it was a tax that was placed on farmers. It's their money. I would like to see the funds left in place to be available for use to facilitate the production of ethanol from their products. Remember, that the role of the Ethanol Board is not to actually buy a plant or to run a plant but to facilitate the expansion and development of the products of Nebraska farmers. They're not in the role to compete with private industry. They're there to support it as a public entity. It was stated that there were about eight companies that were responsible proposals out of a list here of 20. And in looking at the list, if it were...it specifically asks that...it says that they're not for production or for...to be put out for public information at this time but the 20 listed here are very, very reputable companies. I would ask for your support for the amendment. These people are responsible. The Ethanol Board, i'm not going to address some of the concerns that other people may have about that, but that money was put in there by farmers, let that money stay there for the use of their products for the expansion and the facilitation after the bidder is able to gain the plant. I would ask that you support the amendment, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: On the amendment posed by Senators Johnson and Baack. The question is, shall it be adopted? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, to expedite the issue, I would ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Shall the house go under call? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 12 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The house is under call. Members, return to