

support base here in Nebraska. We didn't have the staff people here in Nebraska. We didn't have the ability to help export teams go over there. We just had one lonely individual, one lonely ex-state senator who had a background in German who tried the best he could to deal with the problem. I don't want to see that mistake repeated and I know Senator Johnson and others don't as well. We have to have in place support staff in the state, we have to have organizational support among our business community and we have to work in a number of ways to address this issue, and I know that that is what this bill will accomplish, and with further amendments, I think we can definitely reach that goal. But to be last among states in this area is not something I think we can tolerate any further. The amount of money being talked about here, \$300,000, is not a lot of money and, in fact, we will have to eventually spend more than that I think. Right now the current expenditures are around \$100,000 in this area so this would add 300,000, we're talking 400,000. I think we need to talk in terms of ultimately about a million or more dollars a year into this sort of effort, and if we did that, we would then become competitive with other states and be able to take advantage of our opportunities in international trade. It is one of those bottom line issues. There, I think, can be very little discussion in opposition to this and I would hope merely, as we go forward with the legislation, we talk about how best to achieve these goals. But I do know Senator Johnson is interested in working on this and I'm very pleased to hear that. I think we have an opportunity to advance here, and I'm pleased Senator Johnson picked this as his priority bill so that we could address this issue. And, again, I rise in very strong support of this legislation.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, it couldn't have been said better by Senator Johnson and Senator Wesely, so I simply concur 100 percent in exactly what they said. You can't sell anything if you don't have someone to sell it, and we are very, very lax in Nebraska and some states, I'm aware, have representatives in any number of places, so with that, I cannot add any more, but I'd certainly commend Senator Johnson for bringing this to us.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Baack, please, followed by Senator Coordsen.