

the bill. I don't need to go into the litany of why it's very important for this, at this time, for Nebraska to get involved. I will say the following though, that my experience, at least at the international level, is that if you don't get involved in the ground floor when things are beginning to break, by the time you finally do decide that maybe we should get involved, maybe that was a good deal we should have done, it's too late because markets are very difficult to get into once the established trade patterns and flows have begun to develop. And certainly in eastern Europe and in other areas of the world, those trade patterns are going to be somewhat rerouted and revamped and it is something that we need to get into now. I do have a little bit of concern, you know, if the A bill were up right now, I would be one of those that would say we need to up the ante in order to do it right, but I also understand the budget limitations that we, in Nebraska, are going to be going through, particularly with the Forecasting Board numbers being down 40 to \$70 million and we have some obviously fiscal realities that we have to abide by. But I do think that there will be some things offered on Select File that will help change some of these things to make it a little bit more of a focus, but I do say to my fellow colleagues that if we're going to get involved with this and I certainly hope that we do, that it must be done right and it has to be a commitment for a long-term commitment because we can't do one of these things that we've done in the past where we go ahead and say, yes, this is a good idea, let's go ahead and do so, and then two or three years later we say, well, we're not sure we can afford it at this point, we're going to drop out. Because if it's going to be effective, it has to be something where we get...we begin doing it, we begin marketing our products and we continue to market those products because anyone who is familiar with international trade, international relations, knows it is a very, very long-term, very tedious, laborious task to get into foreign countries to get markets, because not only do you need to get into the marketplace, but you also need to get into getting into the habits and the cultural...different cultural beliefs of the people so to make sure that they accept what it is you're trying to do. And sometimes for people that try to get involved in the market that don't take the time or do not have the money to explore all of those avenues, they end up making mistakes and hurting themselves more than they help themselves. So I would just put a little caution at some point that, if we're going to do this, we need to do it right. I think there is some ways that we'll be able to improve upon what is already a good idea on Select