

with Brad, pardon me, with Don and Brad and talk about how we want to proceed on this issue. Maybe Senator Ashford has some comments he'd like to make. He can have the rest of my time, or I guess he follows me.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Just real briefly, I will need, as Senator Johnson, will need some time to take a look at this and talk to Senator Wesely about it. I have the same concerns, though, that we build a bureaucracy up here in the Department of Economic Development and not direct our attention in the way that I think we should, which is out in the field, helping Nebraska companies find markets in Europe or in Asia. Let me...I think the answer, possibly, could be that we would rely on other agencies of state government to provide to our trade officer names of companies that want to do business in Europe or Asia, and that it's not necessary that we form another agency to provide that information to our trade representative. I think, if we...I agree, we need a coordinating office, and maybe we do need to add a person or two to our economic development office in Lincoln on the international trade side. But I still think that the effort ought to be getting away from creating another bureaucracy, dealing directly with the companies that want to do business in Europe or Asia. And I think a lot of that function can be performed by, for example, the University of Nebraska. And I know they are dealing with a lot of food companies, developing food products in Nebraska. I don't see why we would have to pass that through another agency before we get to the trade representatives. So I understand Senator Wesely's concern about not having backup in Nebraska, but I think...I don't want to allocate a lot of funds to creating another agency when we could...money that should go directly to on-line services provided in those countries and finding the best possible person that we can find to try to direct our Nebraska companies to markets in those areas of the world. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Senator Wesely, would you like to close, please?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, yeah. Mr. Speaker, I simply haven't had time to talk to Brad or Rod on this. It isn't fair to bring the amendment up without having that chance, and I think we need to bring in the Department of Economic Development and some other folks. And so I would withdraw the amendment at this time.