

research area, seeing Mead as an integral part of that in the State of Nebraska. And hopefully we'll be in line for some of those federal dollars to develop projects that will benefit our Nebraska farmers and ranchers. With that, I would just say I support the project. I think that there is room in this bill for both of these particular ideas, and I think they both have merit, that I plan on supporting both of them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Johnson, Senator Coordsen, Senator Weihing, Senator Schmit have all talked about the merits and the possible "conflictions" that might arise adding this to this bill. The foundation of our industry in our state is agriculture. Staying on the cutting edge of the technical advances and biotechnology, and related sciences in the field of agriculture are very important, if we're going to be competitive. And I think that this particular project merits our support. And I would also support Senator Schmit's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Speaker, members, I'm concerned about Senator Johnson's perception that this is somehow a fight between Senator Schmit and me. I think Senator Schmit and I are in agreement that Mead is a worthwhile project. I hope Senator Schmit also agrees that Trailside is a worthwhile project. I think probably who both of us have a disagreement with is the university, and specifically their set of priorities. It seems to me that it is awfully difficult, some times, to get agriculturally related projects high enough up on the priority list to do any good. I've been critical of the university before for not funding extension and supporting them at the level that some times I think they should. Senator Coordsen made a good point when he injected funding for the greenhouses on there. And here we are again with an issue that is hard to argue with in terms of desirability to enhance agriculture. The same frustration is a frustration felt by the people that I represent on the Trailside, which is a citizen-driven effort from a find that has been sitting around since 1962, with no attention, limited attention, kept in a building that is inappropriate for the kind of valuable find that it is, it is constantly in jeopardy. And I guess my concern here is, Senator Schmit, that frankly you and I could end up with nothing.