

within the Revenue Committee. The bill got laid down, laid over, bundled up, inundated with amendments because there were problems with it. And the people did not want to look again at a second year of basically...

PRESIDENT: Time. Thank you. Senator Smith, please, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I think it's necessary for me to stand since this bill is my priority bill that we're speaking about a little earlier here, LB 1124. We believe that it is tremendously important because we think it will have a direct impact on the total economy of the entire State of Nebraska if we can do something with this bill this year. And I'll just give you a real brief synopsis in addition to telling you that I have had passed out a copy of the letter which we submitted to the Speaker the other day and that details for you the importance of why we need to have this bill this year so you can read that if you'd care to. In addition to that, you've had another handout passed out which shows you the state Nebraska...the status of Nebraska among other states in the surrounding area. Nebraska is at a severe disadvantage among the states surrounding us because other states are providing production credit for producers in addition to an excise tax or a combination of either or both of the two. And what we believe is that this is a critical point in time for us and for the industry in the State of Nebraska in order for it to maintain a viable status among other states. We can't afford to lose this opportunity because right now we have plants that are looking at Nebraska and the development of plants here. And so we can become a leader that way both in production and in marketing. I'm not going to go into this in detail because we're hoping we'll be able to get to this a little later, but that's the reason why, and we expressed this concern to Senator Barrett and he felt, like us, that it was important enough that we needed to address this issue this year. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, please, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I'm in a position where it doesn't make me too much difference, personally, what the body does, but I find it ironic that Senator Lamb now would talk about the lack of time when on Friday he was the one who said, let's stay here and spend all