

question again, it's relative to the amendment we adopted from Senator Schmit. There are several references to the Legislature, the majority of the Legislature approving confirmation of those who are appointed by the Governor to the...both the Gasohol Committee and the Ethanol Authority. Maybe, Loran, when you close you might mention why that has changed. Maybe it's just a technical change, I'm not sure. But I just was curious about that and I didn't get a chance to ask that question during the debate on the amendment. But that's all I have.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit. Would this be your closing, Senator Schmit? You're the last light.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I'll just answer Senator Rod Johnson's question, then let Senator Smith close on the bill. Senator Rod Johnson, I inadvertently took away that requirement last year, under LB 587, and did not intend to do so on some of those appointments. And so today, with this amendment, they are all subject to confirmation by a majority of the Legislature again, so that they are uniform, both with the Gasohol Committee and with the members of the Ethanol Authority.

PRESIDENT: Senator Smith, would you like to finish closing or do the closing?

SENATOR SMITH: Well, Mr. President, members of the body, as you all know, this is the ethanol production credit that we're offering to producers in the State of Nebraska. The purpose for that is so that we can be competitive with other states surrounding us. A number of other states in this area have provided that kind of production credit to their producers. And Nebraska, being at a competitive disadvantage is now importing ethanol. We're hoping that by providing this production credit we are placed on the same level as other states surrounding us are and that instead we can, in the end, sell more grain or buy more grain. The producers could buy more grain, we can have more development of plants. This can only benefit the farmers and in the end the economy of the State of Nebraska, and we can export our products rather than importing what we use here in the state. We ask your support in the adoption of the...or in the...I guess it's to move the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the advancement of 1124. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Oh, all those in