

this, over the years the Nebraska Legislature has been right. I think we are right today. We may have some problems. We have had a bill every year on the ethanol thing. We are going to have one for the next 20 years. We are going to have to do it. It is like taxes. It is like every other bill we have here. Reference to the major amendment in the last few days of the Legislature, ladies and gentlemen, it is a 21-page amendment. That is not a large amendment. Large, massive substantive amendments have become routine on this floor. I don't know how many times I have watched as a member brought to us a large 100 page amendment. We trust the individuals who bring them to us. Sometimes there are mistakes, sure.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Every bill that has moved across this floor, ladies and gentlemen, has been, is, and will be in the future subject to amendment to improve it, clarify it, repeal it. I don't have any worry about that. What I am saying is that if we do not pass this bill, I can understand the concerns of some of the urban legislators. What I cannot understand is the no vote from the rural legislators. They have everything to gain and...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...nothing to lose by voting for this amendment. And, ladies and gentlemen, I can assure you that the farmers of the State of Nebraska understand that, if no one else does. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. I still have nine speakers lined up. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Coordsen and Senator Schmit. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I would just like to talk to you a little bit and remind you about the reasons why this bill is so important to us. You remember that Nebraska does...is a leader already in the nation in market penetration of ethanol fuels, and it has set new sales records. But also remember when I told you that currently we have to import two-thirds of the ethanol that we use. Nebraska producers are at a competitive disadvantage among the states surrounding us who are providing production credits to their producers, similar to what we are asking for in this bill, and these production credits, then, coupled with Nebraska's current