

expectation that there won't be the sort of insurance insolvency problem that some people are talking about, that the guarantee funds, if there is any problem at all, will be adequate to meet that problem. But the potential is there for quite an exposure to our taxpayers because of the concern about the economy going down, insurance companies in their practices and investments have got people concerned, and that is why you are seeing a big push for solvency. Because if we can stop insurance companies from going insolvent, then we stop the assessment against these guarantee funds, and then we stop the loss of tax revenues that result as a consequence of those guarantee fund assessments. So, ultimately, we have got to be concerned about solvency for a lot of reasons, and I think very good reasons, and I very much support, not only this bill, but the following bills to try and upgrade the State of Nebraska to meet the standards that are being set nationally. As Senator Landis said, two states have already moved forward and been recognized and certified. Bill McCartney is the Vice President, nationally, of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and he will be President next year. It would be tremendous, too, for the State of Nebraska to have these bills adopted and to be certified here in the very near future as one of the first handful of states to have achieved that goal. Nebraska is recognized nationally as a leader in insurance regulation. We have a very strong insurance industry in the State of Nebraska. One of the reasons it is so strong is that we have an excellent reputation as a regulator. Not that we are too hard on the insurance companies, we are considered fair with insurance companies, but we are also recognized as very, very tough in terms of solvency and other issues, so that the policyholders of a Nebraska-based insurance company can feel safe that their policies will be met by a sound company.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: So we do have an excellent reputation. We want to maintain that reputation and continue to be a leader in insurance regulation, and the way to do that is to adopt this bill and other bills that will be following to further enhance our statutory ability to regulate the solvency of insurance companies. I want to take just a couple of seconds to commend Senator Landis, who has worked hard on this issue. The Department of Insurance has always been very cooperative, and the insurance industry in the State of Nebraska, likewise, has been very, very supportive of this initiative and recognize the