

administrative costs. There were two things in particular that impressed me and there was a man from Plattsmouth with Verticon Technologies, the manufacturer of vertical lift equipment for material handling. They go all over the country and install these, a small group of people, and when you look at the amounts of money they aren't getting millions of dollars, they are getting very small loans to further this business that they're in and most of them that I had talked to or that came into the hearing are the kind that...they're not sitting in some executive office telling other people what to do, they're out there doing the work. The Platte Valley Pet Foods in Scottsbluff, what they got the loan for is a very small part of their business, but it helps their business and I just can't see how we can be against that. The other thing that the committee worked very hard at, and I think we went through this at least three or four times with this particular funding, the other thing we worked very hard at was to protect the north Omaha money and with what...with the constraints we were working with, it was very difficult to come up with an amount of money that would help the R & D continue and protect that north Omaha money. So I will vote against this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, I haven't had a chance to hear all the floor debate and I'm kind of glad to have all these people coming to the defense of the R & D Authority, again one of those pieces of legislation I co-sponsored. It's one of those cases where sometimes you wonder about a bill that you've carried and whether it's working the way you'd like to and, obviously, I've been a big defender of it up to this point, but now I'm asking you to cut the budget, the usual switch in position. But I again reiterate that we're throwing money at projects, in my estimation, and missing opportunities on other projects. We're spending \$900,000 to administer a \$2 million a year program. It makes no sense. We're putting money in a road kill project to pick up road kill and turn it into pet food, not a particularly appetizing idea, in my view, whether you're a dog, cat, or any other species of human or other kind of living being. And so it seems to me we've got a problem with this entity. I'm raising that problem and I'd like to see the budget cut.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Chambers.