

the grain producer, and that there is certainly is a large increase, or at least a substantial impact on the production of ethanol in this state as it relates to the grain farmer and the corn farmer to do that. It makes a logical step, then, that the people who benefit from that should be the people who help fund the production and to help foster this industry to grow. What I like about Senator Rod Johnson's amendment is that we take out the investment authority. The big plant, a few million dollars isn't going to make a big difference as to whether they build a plant or not. What is going to be a big deal to them is the production credit that they get, and that is their incentive, that is what they are looking at doing. And, in fact, that is what the Hastings plant has done. Senator Wehrbein recognizes the reality that at some point in time ethanol is going to catch on in this state for production. We have heard so many times, so many times that there is this one big plant. It is going to be here maybe next month, but at least by the end of the summer we are going to get this plant in. It never happens. It never happens. And that plant is going to come to Senator Moore's district or it will be in my district or it will be in Senator Rod Johnson's district at some point in time. But they never occur, and there is a real danger there. The beauty of going solely to a production credit is there is no money paid out unless there is ethanol actually produced, and that is a protection for the farmer, because I think the farmer sits there with his checkoff and says, well, I don't know; you know, I hate to keep pumping a lot of money into this if we aren't going to get any results. And the best protection to that is a producer credit. As long as I have got some time here, I think Senator Rod Johnson also has an amendment that would reinstate the 20 cent production credit for existing production as well as for any new production, and it is a matter of keeping our word, and we try to strive in here to have some basic, fundamental playing guidelines so that business and industry, in fact the things that we want to foster, can have something to plan with. The Hastings plant is ready, willing, and able, and on their way towards expanding their production, and no matter what anybody else says tonight on the floor, the only viable ethanol production in the State of Nebraska is the Hastings plant. There are some that's close, they haven't produced, and they are not the ones that are here. We gave our word, last year we set out the guidelines and said if you do these sorts of things, here is what the State of Nebraska is going to do, and we are back in less than a year retreating on that. Now if you are in business and you are going to go out and make proposals for