

In 1950, the State of Nebraska produced 200,000 bushels of corn. That production has increased fivefold since 1950 and it has to go somewhere. I believe this is a good project, Cargill is a reputable company. One of my concerns is that there is probably going to be a lot of Iowa corn processed at this plant, and they won't have contributed to the checkoff, they won't have contributed to the producer credits, a few things like that. But I'm also reminded that South Dakota is spending a pretty good investment on an ethanol plant and I suspect some of their grain is going to come from Nebraska. So we've got to quit worrying about the borders and support these type of projects and it is kind of sticking our neck out. But then everything we do in this business world in agriculture is kind of a gamble. And we're an agricultural state and I think it's time we try and fund something like this and do something that will benefit agriculture. So I commend Senator Wehrbein for his endeavors and wholeheartedly support the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, just briefly to comment. I thank Senator Haberman for passing this issue out, his article in the World-Herald Sunday. That is a fairly up-to-date issue. It shows you it's on the front burner. I also picked something off of DTN yesterday with discussion going on with President Bush about this very issue and the importance of ethanol. If you've watched the news closely in the last ten days, this issue is on the front burner. I also would say probably in response, not necessarily directly to Senator Schrock, but this is a very competitive area. Surrounding states are working hard to get these kind of plants in their states, too. We are competitive here. We're not overly competitive. We're competitive. I think that we've attracted a couple of plants. It seems only natural that Nebraska with its corn production, its location to markets west of us and south of us, immediately west actually in Denver, that's our potential markets. We're close to it. We have the corn. It's only logical that they be in Nebraska.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Mr. Clerk, amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Lynch would move to amend this portion of the committee amendments. AM3986, Senator. (See page 2037 of the Legislative Journal.) I understand it goes to Section 9 of the original proposal.