

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President and members, I rise to support Senator Wehrbein's resolution. We met several times as a group from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Economic Development, members of this Legislature and other interested parties in trying to work out a compromise on this plan and in some way secure the...the group from Nebraska City to come...or Cargill to come to Nebraska City and build their facility. I think it's an important economic development step for the state and recognize also the importance it brings to wet milling as well as to the issue of ethanol. At the heart of this issue, however, is an issue this Legislature will have to address next year in great earnest and that is how we're going to fund the ethanol program in the future. That's not to say that we won't be talking about that and it's ironic we talk about it at this point when we're looking at a fund that has over 18, almost \$19 million in it, but recognizing the fact that we have many project proposals out there, the production credit as well as the equity investments that we're going to be making in the future, that fund will dry up rather quickly and so we need to begin the process of addressing that. And I've talked to Senator Wehrbein about that when he was distributing his resolution around yesterday and so we will be back talking about that issue at that point. But I do think it's appropriate, even though we could not address it in this special session that we at least go on record in good faith that we will work with Cargill to try and get them to come to Nebraska and to build their facility and, hopefully, help us economically as a state and as a region to use the surplus corn that we have in this area of our country. And I think the ethanol program that we have in place has attracted a lot of interest but it comes at a cost and we have to recognize that and we will seriously be addressing that issue, both in interim study by the Natural Resources Committee this summer and, of course, next year with pending legislation. So I support Senator Wehrbein's motion and I hope that it will be adopted this morning.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Schellpeper, followed by Senator Coordsen and Chambers. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I also rise to support this resolution. I think it's something that we need to do, we need to take a look at in January. There is also another company, we have the Minnesota Corn Processors,