

to go and I am sorry, but I can't support your amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Mr. President and members of the body, I'll yield my time to Senator Chris Abboud.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Senator. Speaker Withem, members of the body, I'll just add a couple things. I wanted to thank all the Lincoln area senators for their kind words about the amendment. It's kind of typical, I guess, when it comes to these types of issues that the issue breaks down along the lines that I don't feel comfortable really even talking about because I think there's a lot of issues that are important to some senators and ethanol is a good example. I don't have any ethanol plants in my district, don't really have any cornfields, for that matter, but it's an issue that I feel is important to the state and when it comes into issues that we see sapping the economic vitality of our community I think it's natural to assume that the senators that represent that area will speak out in support of issues which help their community and I do not, in any way, feel embarrassed about what my local Ralston area Chamber of Commerce, how they feel about this issue. I suppose I probably could have gotten a letter from them in support of the bill but, to me, getting guidance from my local area Chamber in Ralston is not a bad thing and I assume that when I saw the lobbyist for the Lincoln area Chamber of Commerce out back earlier lobbying, working against this proposal I assume that is nothing that I feel is wrong. That's a part of the system. The issue of constitutionality, I think, was addressed earlier this year in an opinion from the Attorney General's Office and in that opinion he specifically allowed for the Legislature to provide the type of guidance which we're providing in this amendment. We are not excluding the Coordinating Commission to be a part of the process. We are encouraging their participation but we are also providing the guidance to the university as well as to the Coordinating Commission that this is what we would like to see happen. But the final decision will ultimately rest with the regents and if it so qualifies, which I don't believe it does, but if it does qualify for it then it would go to the Coordinating Commission. And the amendment in no way restricts the ability of either body to do