

areas got the roads that they needed. We knew how important they were, but we also wanted to get our share. I have to tell you that those highways are the lifeline for Norfolk. They're the lifeline up in our area for the agricultural market, for our retail market, for our industries in that area and they are vitally important. Yes, we recognize it is a one-cent tax increase but I have to tell you that this is the number one priority in my area and they are strongly in favor of this. So I would urge opposition to Senator Hall's amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Day. Senator Engel, on the Hall amendment.

SENATOR ENGEL: Madam Chairman and members of the body, I have to get up and speak a little bit on this primarily because Governor...ex-Governor Crosby and ex-Governor Thone would be very disappointed if I didn't say something. I'm one on the, like Senator Kristensen referred to, in a border bleeder area. We adjoin South Dakota and Iowa and I believe in good roads. I think our Highway Department is very, very efficient and I think they're very necessary to the State of Nebraska. But in our particular area, the service station dealers there are very, very uncompetitive. Again, as you mentioned, the prices aren't that much different between South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska except the margin of profit is so slight in Nebraska that I'm afraid what we'll do is we'll tax an enterprise out of existence. So I just wanted to offer that for my tristate area because there's about...right now, there's about six cents difference between the...five cents difference between gas tax in Nebraska and Iowa and it's eight cents between Nebraska and South Dakota and we're right on that border. I know the variance is greater down along the Missouri border and, of course, in Wyoming it's worse than that. But I just have to present that to you that it does affect the retailers in my particular area. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Witek, on the Hall amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I appreciate Senator Hall bringing in an amendment to cut spending. I know we just went through this long discussion and there aren't many people left on the floor but we all talked about the need to cut spending, so I do appreciate him bringing that in. However, and it's not just because it's Senator Hall,