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encouragement to an industry, meaning the agriculture industry, that needs all the encouragement it can get these days. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. We've hashed and rehashed a lot of this, but there is one new element of this amendment that hasn't been discussed and at the bottom here of that chart is wheat new project. It needs to be pointed out that this is a potential plant that's looking to locate at Imperial, Nebraska, and we're competing with Holyoke, Colorado. It's narrowed down to two sites. It's a \$30 million investment; lots of, you know, 30 to 35 employees and so on. And we...the Governor's met with them and we, several senators, have met with the principals in this and so on. I need to point out that part of this EPIC Fund money was a wheat checkoff. In '89 through '91, the wheat producers had a checkoff that went into this ethanol fund. We have never ever gotten any benefit out of that money. It covers the bill, roughly balances out the \$1.8 million going to this, what's called the wheat new project. That's about the amount of money, I believe, that was put into this fund through wheat growers. They've never gotten any benefit out of it. So we really need to defeat the committee amendments, get to the Stuhr amendment so that we can, as wheat growers, of which I'm one and, yes, I filed my disclosure statement and so on, we need to get...number one, we need to get this checkoff money back into a wheat project. What it is, it's a wheat gluten plant. It's not an ethanol plant, but as a by-product of the wheat gluten process ethanol can be produced, and it's not a major factor in the overall economics of the plant but it is a factor in competing with Colorado, very serious factor involved here. Because of our tax structure, we really need to provide this ethanol checkoff money that we put in as wheat growers, back in '89 through '91, we need to put it into the mix here when we're competing with Colorado for this wheat gluten plant. It's a nice, clean industry. It's projected to use, I believe, 4 million bushels of wheat a year, which is a lot of wheat out in that country, and it's money that we, as wheat growers, put in. We'd never gotten any benefit out of it, as far as wheat