

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 21, 1999 LB 605

essentially says that everybody's going to be considered equally. That is new facilities, expansions to old facilities, facilities that existed before but didn't maximize their credits, all those would be considered equally. What my amendment says is that applicants that are new facilities located more than 30 miles from an existing facility and more than 30 miles from the borders of Nebraska shall receive credits first, and then the remaining applicants shall share in the remaining credits. The objective of this is simply to benefit more producers. I think most...most people would agree and everybody understands that those producers who are located within a 30...30-mile radius, more or less, from a facility benefit from the higher prices offered for the corn or the sorghum. They're the ones that benefit. And...but there are many, many other producers out there that are paying in the checkoff on their corn and sorghum who are getting no benefit whatsoever, or very little, because they live so far away from where any facility is constructed. And so right now in the state there's a facility in Blair, there's a facility in York, there's two facilities near Hastings, there's a facility in Columbus, and there will be one in Sutherland, hopefully, with this...with this bill. There might be one in Senator Baker's country. He talked about the wheat project, which is an ethanol plant project. That particular project would probably be benefitted by this particular proposition because it's more than 30 miles from any existing facility, I believe. Also, the Sutherland plant is more than 30 miles from any existing facility so it would benefit from this amendment. But there are also areas up in northeast Nebraska where a lot of corn is produced that's probably somewhat disadvantaged by being a heavy feeder area. There's also the area between Hastings and North Platte, the Kearney area, a lot of production area in there where people, producers, are paying in, paying in, paying in this...this fee but getting little or no benefit from it, and so this mechanism is designed to encourage the proposition of spreading the benefit among producers and not making this a bill which might be interpreted as a kind of pork barrel bill dividing up the remaining spoils in this fund among the existing plants that are out there. I mean, one might take that cynical attitude. But at least with this amendment there would be some encouragement to encourage new facilities over additions to existing facilities. Additions to existing facilities are fine,