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project, it went broke, and it went broke not because of the plant but because of disagreements between the parties that were building it. Ultimately, through the bankruptcy court, this project was purchased by a business interest that is now in the process of revamping this entire process in Sutherland. It is taking multi, multimillions of dollars to get it going. They anticipate going on line in August of this year, and they have spent money, in part, in assurance of what was...what was committed to the development of the ethanol program in Nebraska. How do you get financing to do this sort of thing? You get it based upon the understanding of what has been committed. And this was committed in 1995; it's to pay out at the end of the year 2000 on...on the existing program. Now I guess I'm also concerned about the fact as we start to look at certain areas of the state and say, well, this doesn't benefit me that much, this doesn't benefit me that much. I think we have to look at the state of Nebraska as an entire entity and what does this do for the state of Nebraska? What does it do for our picture as far as ethanol production in the state? And I think it's important that we consider that. And I don't think it serves the body well to say, well, I have a particular project in my area that you should support, but I'm not interested in the area that you are involved with. I think that's a bad precedent, and in the Appropriations Committee, we hear elements all the time, well, this will aid Crawford, Nebraska or Chadron, Nebraska or something like that. Well, that doesn't do North Platte, Nebraska a whole lot of good, but we look at it as an entire state. I think it's important that we consider what the ethanol program does for the state, what it does for production, and I'm concerned about this sort of approach because Senator Baker has a project that is getting ready to move into Nebraska, and I think that we are sending messages to people who want to invest in the state, and I think that it's important that we send a positive message. I would urge that the Wickersham amendment be defeated. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator Wickersham, Senator Beutler, Senator Kremer, Senator Baker, and Senator Schrock. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President and members, I look at the