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LB 605

produced something that was of value as far as we're concerned, particularly in the area of production agriculture. So I guess I've made my point. I intend to oppose the Wickersham amendment and carry out the course that we set on a few years ago when we got into the ethanol business in this state. With that, thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. On the Wickersham amendment, Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I oppose the Wickersham amendment. I believe that we all have made a commitment to this industry and I believe that it is a commitment that is important if we want to continue to have as one of the bases for our economy in this state agriculture because value-added is where it's at. And we need to be doing everything that we can to encourage that value-added, and this is an industry that I think offers great potential. I think that it capitalizes on one of our strengths in the state. When the Appropriations Committee looked at whether we were going to commit General Fund revenues over a period of time and what that was going to look like, I was very supportive of that, but it was with the understanding that the industry was going to share and that together for the benefit of the entire state we were going to move forward. I think we've done that. I'm still committed to it. I think we have lots of opportunities for markets that we haven't been aggressive enough in pursuing, and that we need to be more aggressive, and I support this bill but I do not support the Wickersham amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brown. (Visitors introduced.) Next on the Wickersham amendment, Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Call the question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Do I see five hands? See five hands; the question is, shall debate cease? Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Debate is ceased. To close on AM1628,