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products in this state than even ethanol is. And we don't know what the future of ethanol is in terms of the world market or United States market. I think it probably will go up. But I don't think we need to feel bad at all about our investment in the industry the last five years. And once again, I refer to Senator Stuhr's green sheet and that doesn't even take into account all the plants. Cargill, I should have that in front of me, but they're partnering with a Dutch firm on one, they're partnering with another firm on another, and we have those plants in action and one of them is being built. So the spin-off has been absolutely enormous, far beyond I think what we ever dreamed of, and so I think that you ought not to feel bad at all. You should feel proud of what the ethanol industry has brought to Nebraska.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Stuhr, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I also will support Senator Beutler's amendment, and I really do thank everyone that came together on this issue and would also just reiterate that I, too, believe that ethanol has been very good for the state, not only for our economy but also for our environment. And it is an alternative fuel that we can be very proud of and I think that we should work to increase the use. I think it really is pathetic to think that we are down to 22 percent of market share when we once were very much higher, so I think that's one area that we all need to do, particularly we as farmers and ranchers that produce the commodities is to support them. So I believe that it is a fair compromise and the fact that we are reducing the checkoff by one-fourth cent and I think that it has been a good investment for our state. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I would like to thank everybody for looking kindly upon the amendment. And I do want to emphasize that it's with some reservation that I suggest the cutting back of funds because I've always been, from the beginning with Senator