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first things that come to mind. After all, we grow cattle and corn in Nebraska, and our football team is called the Cornhuskers, not the "Juicers". But many years ago, there was a thriving wine industry in Nebraska. As a matter of fact, it's estimated that before prohibition there were somewhere around 4,000 acres of grapes being grown in eastern Nebraska alone. But because of the effects of prohibition, the depression, a drought, the herbicide 2,4-D, and a 1933 program guaranteeing prices for row crops, grapes were plowed under and other crops were planted. Today there are less than 100 acres of grapes being grown throughout the entire state. Nationally, in dollar value, grapes are the seventh largest agricultural commodity and the largest fruit crop grown. Currently, there are two Nebraska wineries in operation with the strong probability of seven others located in Nebraska City, Nemaha, Denton, Geneva, Crawford, Garland, and Lexington. You can raise grapes in very poor soil and rocky soil, so this is something to think about for those people who don't have the irrigated, flat, level soils that Senator Stuhr might have. Likewise, the wine-related alternative crops which the bill addresses, grapes, apples, cherries, raspberries, and honey, are all grown in Nebraska. Now this proposal offers Nebraskans a win-win proposition. By setting up the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board without any direct state funding, it offers invaluable assistance to both Nebraska's fledgling wine industry and to those farmers and producers who wish to raise the alternative wine-related crops discussed earlier. In addition, based on current trends in this state, as well as those in other states which already support their wine industries, this bill would make a valuable contribution to Nebraska's tourism industry, for as our present and future wineries continue to grow and establish a national reputation, they will attract visitors from all over the country. For example, the James Arthur Vineyard, which is located in my district near Raymond, has a guest book, and in the book every state and at least 30 foreign countries are represented. Meanwhile, the promotional programs designed and instituted by the board will certainly inspire more consumers to purchase Nebraska wines, which, in turn, means more money in the pockets of every one that is involved in the industry. Since Nebraska wine purchasers are already buying nearly two million gallons of wine annually, let's allow more of that wine to be made from Nebraska crops by Nebraska wineries. Proactive wine