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legislation has already been passed in 14 states, ranging from Washington State to Virginia and Arizona to New York. Likewise, the American Vintners Association, based in Washington, D.C., has publicly supported this type of legislation, calling it a necessity if domestic American wines hope to compete with their foreign subsidized counterparts. Now, why should you vote for this bill? Well, I have six reasons listed. Number one, wine is a value-added crop. You add value to the crops already grown in Nebraska, the fruits that I talked about. Number two, wine and wine growing, grape growing is an alternative crop for the rural areas. At maturity, a vine will produce a gallon of wine. Maturity is approximately five years, which, theoretically, will give you \$5,000 in gross income. Compare that to corn, which in a decent year would be about \$300 gross income. Number three, the wine industry is a cottage industry. A parent can stay home with their kids and still tend an acre or two of grapes or some apple trees. Number four, as I said before, this industry promotes tourism, and there are also other spin-off industries, such as bed and breakfast, and other specialty shops. Number five, this industry also promotes other Nebraska products that are sold at wineries. For example, the salmon that is grown at Lisco, Nebraska is sold at wineries and, therefore, there is another outlet for another Nebraska crop. The same thing for goat cheese and other cheeses that are produced in Martell. The Baker's candies, which Senator Baker has on his desk, which is made at Greenwood, are sold at these wineries, the Shusters smoked meats, and apples from Nebraska City. And the sixth thing that I have, and by no means probably the last reason to vote for this bill, is employment. It takes bodies out there tending these vines. It's a labor intensive crop. It takes bodies to make the wine. It takes people to sell the wine and a spin-off industry from this would be developing the brochures, advertising these Nebraska wineries. So for these reasons and because of the fact that there is no direct state funding, I am asking you to support this bill. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Further discussion, Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature. I support Senator Hudkins' bill because I think it's important to agriculture in this state. We have a