

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 14, 2000 LB 1348

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I would strike 50 percent and insert 25 percent.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, then what...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that's the only place in the bill that this amendment will have any effect.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, then what about on page 8, line 17?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, it should be there also.

SENATOR DIERKS: I don't think that your amendment does that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, I appreciate having that called to my attention.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, and with that, I think that Senator Chambers has said some things that have a tendency to take away from the importance of the bill, and I think we should try to get back to that importance. The reason that Senator Wehrbein and Senator Connealy were involved with this legislation in the first place was to provide something for those folks in rural Nebraska, a way for them to have some grants to do things that we really need to have done and make things available for those people in rural Nebraska that are not there now. There are a number of opportunities available in other bills. We think this is just another example of the way that we can provide some help to those people in rural Nebraska. And if you all recall the discussions we had a year ago about the fate of the products that we grow out there and the difficulty we have getting fair market for those products, there are a number of people who are actually leaving the farm because they can't make it anymore. If there is some way that we can add to their profitability, this is the way that we ought to go and I think this bill does that. It provides another way for some of these people to look at possibly some value-added effort that will make...make a difference on whether they stay on the farm or not. It's vitally important, I think, and I can't...I just...I get in trouble when we try to minimize where this money goes because it is going to a very needed part of our economy. With that, I would urge your support of the committee amendments. Thank you.