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in rural Nebraska. Thank you for your time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Bromm, on the Connealy amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1234.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. And let me make a couple of general comments and then I want to speak about an amendment that I'm going to be offering. And let me say that, as a principle, I think the ethanol industry offers an awful lot to the state in terms of value-added, in terms of jobs, in terms of economic benefit, economic activity, which we are realizing a good deal of now before this bill. But I think that it is phenomenal that we don't have a higher degree of usage of ethanol in the state. And I did have problems with the bill as originally introduced. I did not vote for the committee amendment that was adopted, but I did vote to send the bill to the floor because I felt like the effort needs to be made. I think the issue needs to be resolved and I think Senator Connealy's amendment goes a long ways towards making it palatable for me and for many of the people that I represent that had real concerns with the original bill. Now the concern that I still have at this point, the one that does catch my ear, with Senator Connealy's amendment, is that I know there are a number of small mom and pop gas stations, if you want to call them that, or just small stations, that apparently only have a couple of tanks, and this could create some problems for them. The amendment that I would like to get the body started thinking about, and I have to make this amendment to the Connealy amendment, I can't make it to the committee amendments, that won't work. So if the Connealy amendment is adopted, this amendment would say that this section would not apply to a retailer at a location with two or fewer fuel tanks available for retail sale of motor fuel until July 1, 2001. Now that would give us over a year to analyze the impact on these smaller businesses, to determine whether this is a reasonable approach or whether we need to change something next session, whether we need to modify this date, whether we need to...you know, there are some states and I was looking at...we were in committee with some other legislation, there's some states that provide some incentives or help for stations that have to do something to modify their tank situation to sell ethanol. There are some tax