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SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members of the Legislature, was after much deliberation that I decided to submit myself for your consideration for Chairman of the Agriculture Committee. I know they will be big shoes to fill with Senator Dierks not being here. He's done a fine job for many years. I thought, even though it's never been my goal to be chairman of a committee, that it was a fit at this time and the opportunity was there. Production agriculture and, as Senator Coordsen would say, food production has been my livelihood for my entire life. Two of my daughters and my sons-in-law who are in the audience today are the fourth generation to operate the farm that...part of the farm that we have now, and the fifth generation to operate in the Aurora community. So you know it's very important that conservation of our natural resources and also agriculture are very important to me. I do have several concerns. I do not come with an agenda, but I think agriculture is at a real trying time right now with profitability as well as many other things. Because I do not like to make long speeches, I will mention about three things briefly. And, Senator Chambers, I couldn't make a long speech even if I wanted to unless I could speak as slowly as Senator Coordsen. (Laughter) The first thing that came to my mind is being able to derive our income in agriculture from the marketplace rather than being concerned and overly dependent on government subsidies. Unfortunately, we have not been able to do that because the only time we can get a fair market in the price of our products is when we have a shortage, and I think the people in the United States of America have the rare advantage of having the cheapest, the safest and the most abundant food supply in the world today, and many times that's at the expense of the agriculture producer. Secondly, and I think it's come to light this year, especially with the drought in the western part of our state, how important our water is, to have clean, abundant supply of water, and that's an issue that's going to be before us, that we have an abundant supply of water not only for agriculture but for our cities and our industries also. Thirdly, and this is an issue that's been around for a long time, is the tremendous burden of our taxes on our agriculture land. We've made real progress, thanks to the cooperation of our friends from the urban areas in the last few