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indulgence in that I didn't provide a bill early on, but I think that a bill would have advanced, and I ask that you support this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Beutler, on the Connealy amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: You know, I don't know what the answer to all our problems are, just as you don't, but it seems to me that when you consider this amendment, which I support, and some of what goes on in the ag sector with workers, you have to ask yourself, why would a worker stay in Nebraska? We don't protect their safety. In our largest industry, we don't protect them with minimum wage, we don't protect them with unemployment insurance, we don't protect them with workers' comp. How can we keep the worker level people in the rural areas if they're being paid rock bottom prices for their labor, whether it's salary or the benefits? Of course they're going to flee to Omaha or Lincoln or flee to other states. The biggest problem we have in attracting industry to Nebraska is that we don't have a labor pool. We don't have a labor pool. We're short on workers and, yet, in denying or fussing about this safety program, in cutting back as many ways as we can on benefits to workers, we create our own problem of no labor pool. Why would various levels of labor stay in Nebraska if they can go someplace else and be paid more? Sure, there's some loyalty to where you come from and some loyalty to a way of life, but the policies we're putting in place are simply pushing labor to other states and other areas, and this amendment, if we don't adopt it, will have the same kind of effect. It's saying to workers, we don't care enough about your safety to have programs in place; we don't care enough about your safety to have an OSHA...a state OSHA program in place; we simply don't care enough. And the result of not caring enough will be that we won't have the labor pool, and the result of not having the labor pool is that we won't attract...we won't be able to attract economic development to the state, and it is all one vicious cycle. And I think we have to break out of the mold that we're in, in terms of how we treat a number of things, and try to create a new atmosphere and a different atmosphere so that we can attract business and industry. These old policies have been failing us. They've