

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 20, 2004 LB 376, 479

to meet the construction deadline and be in production before June 3rd of 2004...June 30th of 2004. So what we did over the summer, the fall was to bring these groups together and build a consensus that said here is the process we want to follow. We are going to use LB 479 as a vehicle to clarify qualifications. Senator Bourne had an amendment on this bill dealing with...it was part of the committee amendments. It was part of the construction, the contracts, and bidding by Nebraska companies. We didn't feel that was useful and necessary on this because actually the bill now becomes, with my AM2150 becomes LB 376, which was Senator Kremer's bill in Revenue Committee, it is still held in committee, simply clarifying language that qualifies companies for the incentives. And in the process of working through this last summer and fall, we agreed that the course of action we should take would be to introduce a new bill, which I did, that would fund, fully fund the EPIC program. It includes an increase in checkoff and the various other taxes. And then I also introduced another bill that would create a whole new incentive program. So those are on file. They've been introduced. And this process that we're going through now with LB 479 is clarification of qualifications is about all that's left in the bill. As I said, Senator Bourne was very concerned about labor issues and construction companies from outside the state being used to build these plants. There is public money going into these plants through LB 775. I understand his concerns. I have done the best I can with the plant being built in my district to make sure that local or Nebraska companies are being used and they've done a good job. That's an issue to me for the new ethanol program. These plants that are going to qualify for this incentive program now are basically built...I think the one is going on line in March, another one in April, the other two are already producing, so there is no more construction contracts to be let. Referring specifically to AM2150, which is what we're debating, actually we...Mr. Clerk, didn't we substitute? I withdrew AM1382 and substituted AM2140.

CLERK: We're about ready to do that, Senator.

SENATOR BAKER: Okay, well, I will do that, and at that time I will discuss AM2150. Thank you.