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am saying is Nebraska people are not even getting the opportunity to bid on working on these plants. And so maybe they are not precluded as such, but they are...the door is shut to Nebraska workers for even bidding on these, as I understand it.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, and I appreciate that. And, also, I guess I'm done with questions, but I do want to point out that there, number one, is an effort underway in my district to build the only or at least the first ethanol production facility in the Panhandle of Nebraska. And we're lacking the market for our corn growers to explore for ethanol purposes and we're trying to get that going. And it's been kind of a rough road. In fact, the reason why the deadlines have become difficult is because it took 284 days to secure the DEQ permit, 284 days, when on average I'm hearing that it's generally about half that for other situations. And this wasn't some unique scenario that they need...that DEQ needed the 284 days. And there is time lines available of who made what phone calls and when, and what the responses were, and how folks were put off. And so that make it very difficult. And so when other options were examined, they looked at a smaller production that would work into a larger facility. There was nothing portable about this. I know the term "portable" has been tossed about this morning, but the fact is there was nothing portable about it. And so we want to end up with a production facility in the Panhandle of Nebraska so that we can help a lot of people; help the tax base, help the job market, help a lot of things along the way that we can end up with a good situation for all those involved. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Schrock, Baker, Bourne, Connealy, Hartnett and Kremer. Senator Beutler, and this will be your third time, Senator, as you know.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kremer, I very much appreciated our dialog to date, and if it's okay with you, I'd like to continue talking about it because you know a lot more about what's currently going on than I do. Let's look at this from the point of view of somebody who wants to maximize the number of plants