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SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You have 3 minutes and 30 seconds.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Chambers. And again, I'm going to try to add some clarity to this issue. I have been an ethanol supporter since I have been in this body, and continue to be. I just think we need to maximize this incentive program and, in order to maximize it, I think we ought to have at least Nebraska workers given the opportunity to bid on these projects, which, as I understand it, is currently not happening. I don't think anybody in here can disagree with the fact that in order to maximize an incentive program we have to maximize the contribution to the state. If these are...if these are Nebraska residents, they should at least be given the opportunity to bid on these projects. I'll tell you, I know a steam fitter up in Omaha and he called, he called a manufacturer of one of these plants and said, hey, I'd really like to bid on that plant, and they said, no, we've got that taken care of. And again, there was no posting, there was no announcement that there was going to be a bid letting. They just had awarded it to a non-Nebraska contractor who they've worked with in the past. And this individual told a steam fitter...and I'll tell you, I don't know how many of you know this, but steam fitters spend about eight, ten years in training on how to do that type of work...this individual told the steam fitter, no, he says, I'm not going to let you bid on steam fitting work, but maybe I'll let you bid on painting the facility the next time. That is outrageous. This is a Nebraska-based business owner that was basically told, hey, you're not going to be even given the opportunity to bid on this, forget it. That is wrong, absolutely wrong. Senator Cunningham, Senator Connealy talked about the amount of money that goes into this program and Senator Connealy said that if they bring this portable still in they only qualify for that minimum amount, and he's right. But he left out another two components. He left out...and Senator Cunningham left this out as well, if Plainview or any other ethanol facility expands, they may qualify for other business incentive credits, may. I'm not saying Plainview, I'm not saying every other plant did or