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FLOOR DEBATE

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really...while locally there might be some benefit, it hasn't changed the price of corn statewide. Who's making money on this? The people that come in from outside our state to build these plants. And all I'm saying with my amendment is, yeah, we'll continue the ethanol program, it does make sense, it does provide incentives for rural Nebraska and, by golly, we need those, because rural Nebraska is dying and I think we should do everything we can to protect it, to prop it up, and this is a way to do it. But we also need to say, if you're going to build ethanol plants, if you're going to take Nebraska taxpayers' money, you need to use Nebraska taxpayers to build this. We need to maximize this incentive program. The way to do it is simply to allow Nebraska-based individuals to...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...bid on these contracts. I told you a minute ago about a highly trained steam fitter, and he called this individual from Minnesota asking to bid, to simply bid, on installing some pipes in one of these facilities. And the manufacturer of the plant, he said, no, he says, you're not going to be able to bid. He said, maybe I'll let you bid on painting it the next time. This is a highly compensated, highly trained, Nebraska-based contractor who was basically told, no, you're not going to be able to participate; even though this is your money that you're paying into this, this is taxpayer money, you're not going to be able to participate; no, I don't think so; not this time; maybe next time; maybe I'll let you paint it; maybe I'll let you sweep the floors. That's ridiculous. This is outrageous. I'll tell you, this is an absolute "no-brainer." I'm going to ask you to vote against AM2150. Let me substitute my amendment, which is AM2251, and we'll go on from there. It does make sense. If you do vote green on AM2150, I do have an amendment that will add this Nebraska protection back in.

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR BOURNE: It's a "no-brainer." It makes sense.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Janssen.