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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, we've been on this issue for quite some time this morning. It's a very important issue. I live in an area that benefits from a wet mill plant, which is only about 30 miles away, and I've watched those trucks go back and forth to the plant at Blair. Most of the time, they're hauling the wet mill or the hulls of the corn into some cattle-feeding areas in my district. It is a good product. It's what's left over out of that kernel of corn that you can't get another nutrient out of it except by feeding it to cattle. I am going to agree with Senator Bourne on this issue. I...hearing it in Revenue, I thought this was absolutely ridiculous that we didn't allow Nebraska companies to bid on these facilities. I don't know what the laws in, say, Minnesota are on construction of plants there, but you can bet your sweet life that those companies are protected in that state. Senator Stuthman talked about the spin-off within the communities that these plants are in. It's not only in that particular area or right in that particular town that they're built in. It's probably a 50-mile radius around that plant. I know the one in Blair hires an awfully lot of people out of Omaha, and they're good jobs, darn good jobs. People that work there, hardly ever...you hardly ever see any of them quit, and that's a good way to measure a company, by the turnover they have in their employees, and it's very minimal. They also contract with other companies, because that little kernel of corn produces so many...so many things, all the way from plastic to paint remover, let's call it. It's a great opportunity for any community to get one of these. On the other hand, on the other hand, I'm sure that these companies do make some money, the contractors who come in and build these, these establishments. Why not let companies in Nebraska at least bid? I can't understand why...why anyone would not allow that to happen. I would imagine that the more people you have bidding the less it's going to be. Someone is going to try to outbid the other person. But if you lock that into just a few companies from outside of the state of Nebraska or any other state with a similar situation like we have, you are creating a...I want to say a monopoly. They know that they're going to get that bid. And if you just have the clause in the bill that says you must allow them to bid. If they can't do it for a lesser cost, they're not going to get the job. But you can't