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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 479

SENATOR BAKER: Yes, it would.

SENATOR BOURNE: See, and that's my concern. You know, I understand exactly what you're saying. And I'm checking right now on how many plants are in existence in Nebraska that either are permitted for under 20...or 15 million gallons, or actually producing under 15 million gallons. But that plant in northeast Nebraska would be forever precluded. Say they decide, they get some financing and they want to expand to a...you know, a 100 million gallon a year facility. They'd be precluded from being "incented" to do that, under the terms...the language you have here in AM2713. Is that accurate?

SENATOR BAKER: Yes. I'm looking over this sheet that I have from DEQ. There's...the smallest plant right now producing that I see on here is Platte Valley...I'm sorry, is Husker, up at Plainview. They're a 20 million gallon per year plant. Although I think they've expanded above that now. They're actually permitted for 25 million. I think they started out at 20 million, (inaudible).

SENATOR BOURNE: Right. Now, Husker Ag is in Plainview, and they're permitted for 25 million gallons per year. The permit is issued. And as I understand it, that's one of the four that's going to be up and going.

SENATOR BAKER: Right. It is producing now. I have the...if you'd like to look at it, we have the actual payments made to them, up to date.

SENATOR BOURNE: I'm not so concerned with the payments as I am, are we saying that, okay, Husker Ag, if you're only producing 13 million gallons of ethanol right now, and continue at that rate until October 2 of 2004, and then decide you want to up it or expand your plant, we're saying they won't qualify for incentives? And even though they're permitted for 25 million gallons, what I want to know is, how much are they producing? And your amendment limits significantly the ability of these plants to expand, assuming that their financing would be contingent on qualifying for LB 775 credits.