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FLOOR DEBATE

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my understanding is that those plants are Nebraska people. We had some testimony at the hearing earlier this year on a bill to extend the deadline. There's a guy from...I think it's Senator Erdman's district who thinks that he'll be able to do this. I think there's a plant in Ravenna who thinks...they think they'll be able to get in under the wire. These are Nebraska people, as I understand it. So here I'm torn. We've got the four plants. They're here. They're...let's say they're producing ethanol because it's quite clear they will produce it by June 30. Then we...and those were built largely with some Nebraskans, but largely without Nebraska labor. We haven't maximized this program, in my mind. And then we have another four that might be able to sneak under the wire. And what we're doing with LB 479 is absolutely making sure that these Nebraska companies cannot sneak under the wire. Do we want to do that? I listen to Senator Wehrbein. I listen to Senator Landis. I hear their discussions. We're concerned about funding the four plants that we know will produce ethanol and we're very concerned about the liability for the additional four that might come about. I think that's a legitimate concern. But then you hear Senator Schrock and you hear Senator Connealy and some of the other pro-ethanol individuals that, well, even though it maybe was intended for one or two plants, the more the merrier. It's a good industry. It provides jobs. So here's my quandary. I think largely LB 479 does nothing. The contracts are let so an individual, he's either going to qualify or not. If an individual applies for the ethanol permits and that, I would assume at the same time they provided LB 775, so the prohibition probably doesn't mean anything in this, but it's not clear. None of us right now, maybe with the exception of Senator Baker, can tell you exactly what LB 479 does. I don't know if this is a good industry or not. I feel that we were kind of...we did not maximize the LB 536 program when we developed it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: Some Nebraska people worked on these plants, not very many. I don't think it provided very many jobs to Nebraskans, so I'm struggling as to what to do. Do we not change the status of the law and let these people sneak under and thereby increasing the exposure to the state, even though we