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Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2004 LB 1065

in this bill than the agreement was in the beginning. We have traditionally on the agricultural side supported ethanol to a larger extent than the General Fund has. It has been mostly farmer dollars that built these plants from the public side. This would add that much more on the agricultural side to that equation which I think is already balanced too heavily on the ag sector. I strongly oppose the reconsideration motion and I oppose the breaking the kind of balance that we had initially in this bill as it came out of committee; not as it was written, but as it came out committee, and as it was supported in the discussions on the first round here. I don't think that we ought to burden the agricultural sector more for this, which I think is a broad economic development for the state. The plant in Blair and the plant in Columbus, that I'm more familiar with than any other plants in the state, are great economic development projects for those communities. Property taxes are lower because of that. Economic activity is higher in those areas because of that; not just for the farmers. It is good for the agricultural sector, but because it's good for the agricultural sector, we have more dollars going through our economy here in Nebraska than we would otherwise. If we would export totally the raw materials, you'd not get that cycling in our economy. It's good for the whole state. We have a better, more resilient economy because we have industrial uses of grain. I would argue that the balance that we had initially on a half-and-half has been diminished on the public side. We don't want to do that more. So I rise in opposition to the reconsideration motion.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Beutler, on the motion to reconsider.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Call the question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on the motion to reconsider? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. The question before the body is to cease debate. Have you all voted who care to on the question to cease debate? Record please, Mr. Clerk.