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SENATOR MINES: Senator, I'm not sure if your question about Nebraska not being able to use all our funds, if I understand that correctly.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, let's start at the beginning. What's the purpose for changing the policy of the state that this program should apply to the smaller farmers?

SENATOR MINES: Okay. The limit as set now I think is \$300,000 of net worth, and in today's environment your net worth, simply by owning land, is...you're going to blow by \$300,000 pretty quickly. In fact, equipment, it doesn't take much to have \$300,000 in equipment or net worth. The federal program has a net worth exemption or cap, doesn't have a cap on net worth, and in fact, you know, rather than raise the net worth cap to some arbitrary number, it could make some sense, and I'm not saying that we would exclude anyone, actually we include everyone, if we just eliminate any cap on net worth. It's common in other states and it, in fact, I don't think would impact the overall program dramatically.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is...tell me again what the purpose of this program is. Is it the purpose of this program is to get partially subsidized or more low-interest loans? Is that the purpose of the program?

SENATOR MINES: Is to make available lower interest loans to ag producers, ranchers and farmers, up to half a million dollars, if the amendment is approved.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And so with this change, though, you're not putting a new cap on net worth, but you're basically saying that any farmer, no matter what their net worth is, the very largest ones could benefit from this program as well as the average and smaller ones. Is that accurate?

SENATOR MINES: Well, I think it's accurate, but for the NIFA board that does approve the allocation of those low-income or, excuse me, low-interest loans, the board does decide where the money is to be distributed.