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SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR MINES: So I think you've got a...you've got a board fully engaged in the process that would, I would assume and hope that they would, make decisions based on not large producers but small producers, and those small producers could have a net worth of a million dollars.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, was any thought given to raising the net worth? How long ago was the net worth cap set in place?

SENATOR MINES: 1991.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So it's been about 14 years or so.

SENATOR MINES: It's been awhile. Yeah, it's been awhile. And again, to pick an arbitrary number, to pick a million dollars or two million, we see all around us that the net worth cap has been removed so we just went with that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, if part of this program is designed for beginning farmers, wouldn't it make some sense to encourage that purpose by having a net worth cap?

SENATOR MINES: I think, in principle, you're right. In practice, a young farmer that inherits, as an example, a significant amount of property but doesn't have the cash to perhaps invest in new processes, new machinery, is excluded from that process, and I think those are the kind of folks we don't want to hurt either, those that when you take a look at the net worth on the ledger it looks fine, but they have no operating capital or can't enter into any other lines because they don't have the cash.

SENATOR BEUTLER: You know, I'm just trying to thread my way through this a little bit.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: General...