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LB 90

perhaps need legislation in place, or something like that, that ethanol should be selling cheaper than your regular gas at the present time. And now that it's working around the state, we see that. In fact, now, several of the different facilities are selling this E85. And there are people that are putting that in their cars. And if you look to see whether or not your vehicle can burn that, why, it's running at somewheres about \$1.50 a gallon, or nearly 50 cents a gallon cheaper than your regular gasoline. So all of the state over, everyone is getting some benefits from the ethanol program. This is the reason I think it should be funded probably better than what it has been, instead of relying strictly on the corn checkoffs that up to now has been to promote it. I think probably there is...comes a time when we have to use it as an incentive for Nebraska, because it is beginning to be an industry in Nebraska. Ethanol plants are a viable industry of Nebraska. It's coming around more so all the time. I think there will be some other industries that will be spin-offs from this type of stuff, with our different derivatives that we can get from corn, and that...the time will see that we will do a lot more with our...with corn production. And of course, in the eastern part of Nebraska, that's one of the major crops that comes about. So I certainly support this...Senator Bourne's amendment. I think there has to be a way to fund this besides strictly the checkoff. It's a value-added product that we're using on our economy. Anything that...in the agricultural market, that we can value-add to, is something, a plus, for Nebraska. We have plenty of agriculture products. The main thing is, is that we see to it that we value-add to those products, or they leave the state. And this is certainly one way that it can be done. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Loudon. Senator Kremer, followed by Senator Wehrbein and others.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This is kind of a tough one. And I'm going to oppose it, mainly because we worked very hard to get an agreement with LB 90 with the amendments on there. It wasn't easy to get the extra \$2.5 million. It was talked about doing that for two years and it was talked about doing it for four years. We were able to