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FLOOR DEBATE

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through its small communities and bigger communities, puts together investors who may not have a ton of money that they wish to risk on one idea but might be willing to come together to put together funds that then could be used to promote businesses in their locality. All of the businesses that are worked with by Invest Nebraska are Nebraska-based businesses. These are businesses that are providing the growth potential for the state of Nebraska. But I understand that...I understand the importance of the underlying bill and I don't want to jeopardize that underlying bill. And I'm afraid, with the time being what it is and with Senator Chambers' attitude being what it is, that we may not be able to advance LB 990 with this amendment on it. I would ask you to very seriously consider whether there...supporting the idea of this, we might be able to find another place for it. I disagree with the position that Senator Chambers has that this is a giveaway to business. This is about us developing our own abilities as a state to work with venture capital, keep venture capital here for Nebraska businesses, help businesses link with small start-up businesses and high-growth businesses, link with individuals and groups that have money that they're willing to invest. And we need more of it. But I'm not willing to jeopardize Senator Wehrbein's bill, and so I will withdraw the amendment at this time. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is Senator Kremer, AM2853. (Legislative Journal page 1168.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kremer, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. AM2853 is really the LB 346. LB 346 was introduced last year but did not have time to be taken up. And LB 346 is really in response--and it deals with the beginning farmer program--it's in response to a study that we had in 2004, it was LR 303. And that was in response to a survey that was put out by the Beginning Farmer Board. The beginning farmer program was enacted in 1999. It was a bill by Senator Wehrbein, LB 630. And in response to the fact that we are getting less and less beginning farmers and our average age of our farmers and