

concern. I understand why they want to be...the Department of Agriculture to be the lead agency. But when I hear comments like those made by Senator Dierks a few moments ago that an amendment like this that gets also into the consideration of the approval of the plan, health concerns, environmental quality concerns, something like that dismantling the bill I begin to get suspicious. Is this really for al' Nebraskans or does this become a bill entirely for agriculture. I think what Senator Beutler is suggesting that we also include the Department of Health and Department of Environmental Quality in this is what we would traditionally consider to be a good compromise. Senator Beutler earlier was proposing the Department of Environmental Quality should be managing the program. The body has decided it should be Department of Ag, but what traditionally we would consider a coming together of having some shared authority seems to make some sense to me. Now I also may comment, Senator Baack, your remarks about endangering approval at the federal level, if we do this, does also make some sense to me. So I'll continue to be listening to the argument but I am becoming concerned that there seems to be some proprietary interest in this when a senator from Lincoln who happens to chair our Natural Resources Committee stands and begins to make some concerns known about wanting to get input from people other than simply Department of Agriculture. I'm concerned that that's receiving such a negative input. At this point, I plan to support the Beutler amendment. I think it makes sense to me. If there are some problems with federal approval, we may be able to work those out on subsequent amendments. I don't think this is a sort of bill though that is designed for all Nebraskans that we ought to say simply because the ag groups came together and supported it that we are all duty bound on the floor to support it. I'm going to be listening a lot more intently in the future on this bill and at least at this point I plan on supporting the Beutler amendment.

**PRESIDENT MOUL:** Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Cudaback, followed by Senators Bromm, Wesely and Baack.

**SENATOR CUDABACK:** Madam President and members, I guess I can share the concerns of Senator Beutler and I guess I can share some of the concerns of Senator Withem, but we've got to keep in mind LB 588 had a public hearing. It had a public hearing. Open your book and look at the proponents of this bill. It wasn't strictly farmers' groups, it wasn't strictly one segment. Read the proponents. You had Women Involved in Farm Economics,