

well be involved in the checkoff. I would yield my remaining time to Senator McKenzie.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator McKenzie, you have approximately three minutes.

**SENATOR MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Senator Wehrbein. This is the first time I have risen to speak about LB 961 or the compromise amendment, and yet my name is one of those names signed on the amendment. And I am standing here saying I was certainly a key player in talking to different people the day that a lot of ideas were being thrown around. And I find some of the discussion interesting and guess I feel the need to put my two cents worth in and my justification for what happened and why I still believe it's a good compromise. Senator Bromm talks about compromising principles and things being connected, and yet all of us who have been on this floor for the last 59 days have seen issue after issue, and bill after bill become connected and interwoven in debate, in filibuster, in attacks personally against other people on the floor. And the idea that everything is separate as a bill is one reality, but to keep those issues separate in debate and in policy decision is not what happens on this floor. And while I can agree with the concerns that Senator Kristensen indicated and understand, as someone who hasn't been here and studied law as he has, where that concern is, I also can stand here and say I think that LB 961 is a good bill, and in good conscience can vote for it, and for one reason that others have mentioned briefly is that I think this was a concerted effort for rural and urban interests to come together and solve the problems that we were facing in the last days of the session in trying to do what we believe was good for people, was good for our constituents from both sides of the state and across the state, and I know that not everyone was benefitted. For instance, Senator Hillman mentioned that she doesn't know exactly what happened for her part of the district in this...or this part of the state in this bill. But, in fact, I think that it was overall a good faith effort. Nothing happened behind closed doors because, quite honestly,...

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** One minute.

**SENATOR MCKENZIE:** ...none of those eight people on that amendment ever met together at one time. There were constant discussions in trying to look at a way that we could get to some