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agriculture, and even in agriculture in the nation, and think that that was going to be good for the country, that somehow that would produce cost reductions, somehow that would create greater efficiencies, that somehow we would all benefit from that, when quite the contrary is our experience in other industries, that it is the raw, every day competition amongst, sometimes, very small operators that produces the greatest overall economic benefit. And if Senator Wehrbein's amendment or his bill helps to promote that kind of a policy, I think we will all benefit in the long-run, not only we will benefit, but the producers themselves, the people who are able to make a living for their families and contribute to our communities will also be the winners.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Discussion on the committee amendments. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Madam Chair, members of the body, I think that Senator Wehrbein has brought to our attention an issue about which we all ought to be concerned. He is talking...we know that aging, generally, is something we're going to have to address in Nebraska as it relates to many things. I think we know that aging specifically, as it relates to whether it be our towns, our cities, or our farms, can have an adverse effect upon the economic viability of Nebraska. And I would like to be clear that I think we ought to be interested in how it is that we bring our agricultural sector along, it is our number one industry, and how it is that we keep young people on the farm, and how it is that we keep agriculture viable in Nebraska. But I must say, I guess, after the positive comments of Senator Wehrbein and Senator Wickersham, I want to raise one red flag. And that is that the funding would come from a reduction in LB 775 benefits. And I think that puts the wrong tone on this discussion, because I am concerned, as a senator from an urban area, about depopulation in our rural communities, and about depopulation in the farm. And I, for one, have had a long history, and this will come up in another context, of standing, since 1983, in support of Initiative 300 and understanding its legitimate objectives. But by seeking to fund this, benefit in LB 630 from the LB 775 credits, I think we sooner or later must deal with what I think is a bad tone, and that is that this becomes, should not be, but it becomes an urban versus rural, or