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LB 479

Senator Baker is proposing to us is, is that the only ones that we really intended to fund under LB 536 are these four. And if I remember back to the discussion with former Senator Dierks, and Senator Cunningham's priority bill, and the discussion was, the idea was, let's leave this open and let's encourage the growth of this industry. I'm not going to discount one bit the fact that there is a potential shortfall farther than what we have now, should we allow the process to continue on. What I am going to offer the body is this. We're being disingenuous with what we're trying to attempt here. Last year, I stood on this floor and said, let's pass LB 479 and let's extend the date one year. It would have clarified the process, it would have allowed those who would be affected by our decision to clarify it, a remedy to accomplish the same goal. We ignored that. We came back on General File, we offered an amendment that would be retroactive, which was deemed to be unconstitutional by an opinion of the Attorney General. So here we are. Now I don't...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...I can't question what Senator Baker's motives are, because I also know that he's been a part of the discussion with the Trenton plant. I'm part of a discussion with another plant, and I'll admit that fully and openly to everyone here. To me, this is viewed as unfair to the process. It's viewed unfair to the individuals that have contacted me saying, you're changing the rules on us again and we're trying to figure out how to comply with the law that you wrote almost two years ago, and we're trying to accomplish the goal that you set out. These are the people that Senator Bourne said he would like to see helped. These are Nebraskans. They live here, they already pay taxes here. They're residents. They're not someone from Minnesota. So I'm encouraging some caution here, because it appears that the rationale for the one plant over the other is, those who are going to push AM2713 are going to benefit from the credits and the opportunity, and those who aren't already in the gate but yet still would have applied and qualified under LB 536 are just out of luck. I think that's unfair, and I think there's some questions about whether or not we should be proceeding down this path. Thank you, Mr. President.