

probably a great majority of Nebraskans, both in agriculture and outside of it, this issue really is not that important to them. But there is a small minority on both sides of the issue fighting to either put up a wall around the state or tear one down to promote the issue or oppose the issue and that poses a great difficulty on 25 of us if we are going to, in fact, repeal 300 at this time or if we are going to amend it or if we are going to try in some way to reject this proposal today and take a look at it again in a year from now. But the point I want to...or the perspective I want to present today is that agriculture is not necessarily Initiative 300 and the restrictions that it places on agriculture are on production agriculture because, in fact, there are restrictions that I guess I would like to see changed. There are others that I would like to see stay in place. I think that agriculture is going to survive under any system and you are going to have farmers out there whether they are family farmers, big farmers or small farmers, still going to have agriculture and the sun is going to come up tomorrow and you are going to still have people in production agriculture and you are still going to have small towns in some form or another and you are still going to have agribusiness people out there servicing those people in production agriculture because agriculture is not just credit and debts, agriculture is bloodied knuckles, and it is callused hands, and it is white foreheads, and sunburned faces. That is what agriculture is all about. Agriculture is leveling a dirty grain bin sometimes or hauling irrigation pipe in the middle of the summer during a 95 degree day and a 90 percent humidity, or chopping musk thistle in a pasture somewhere, or rounding up cattle in the middle of a blizzard because I have done those things. I am sure those people in agriculture have done those things before too. That is what agriculture is. It is sitting on a tractor or combine all day long and into the evening. I think that those are the points that we are looking beyond. That is what we are trying to preserve. Maybe that is not the way agriculture will be in the future, but I still think you are going to need the human element that we sort of have been ignoring in this whole process. So while we, as I was saying to Senator Vard Johnson and Senator Warner earlier, if you lived in Lincoln and worked in this particular system, you would think that the sun rose and set on Initiative 300. Really, as I said, agriculture and the people in agriculture or supporting agriculture, still are going to be out there tomorrow and whether Initiative 300 is