

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 3, 2001

LB 75

and war. But I've been an ethanol supporter for a long time and I'll continue to be. As long as I'm in or out of public service, I'm going to support ethanol. My grandpa has still got farm ground near Bruning. We're fifth generation farmers there. Was in the family from the 1880s and there's corn on that ground now, or there will be soon. There was corn on that ground last year and there was corn on that ground in 1900. So I...I appreciate the fact to be able to talk about that. My wife's family, they're farmers. I support farmers and I always will, and ethanol is a chance for us to increase the market for those farmers' corn. Any chance we've got to do that we need to take it. When we can give farmers a chance to sell their corn right here at home, to homegrown Nebraska tax-paying ethanol companies, why wouldn't we do it? This comes down, in my opinion, to supporting Nebraska farmers or supporting out-of-state oil companies. Which do you want to do? In my mind, it's clear. I support Nebraska farmers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bruning. Senator Baker, you're recognized, and this will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. We...I think we're getting away from what we need to discuss here. We've got big oil as the villain in here and I...I think big oil is going to benefit from this bill. We pass this bill they have a captive market for 85 octane fuel and we are at their mercy. There isn't much of it refined. We're saying here are a bunch of sheep; lead us to slaughter, we folks. I'm in favor of ethanol production; I'm in favor of ethanol use. Can't seem to get across to people this could be a death knell for ethanol in Nebraska use. If you price the product, ethanol, higher than a standard no lead at the same grade, people are not going to buy it. And we are saying, we trust you, big oil; we trust you; give us this 85 octane fuel; we have to take it; doesn't matter what the price is; we're at your mercy but we trust you. And you look back on the record and say, hmm, they have not priced 85 octane fuel cheaper than no lead, as far as I can go back, which I admit is only a few years, but it's always been higher priced. If they're going to change it for us now because we mandate it, I've got a bridge to sell you and a lot of blue sky. I think the big oil companies are going to say, look at what