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FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2001 LB 75

Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President. My amendment to LB 75 would exempt for a time period stations that just have one tank. And, of course, this bill is the bill that would require ethanol blended gasolines in the lowest octane rating of gasoline in every station in the state.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, my amendment would simply change Senator Connealy's amendment to strike "one storage tank" and insert "two storage tanks".

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Debate on the Chambers amendment to the Connealy amendment to LB 75? Senator Raikes, followed by Senators Hilgert, Connealy, Chambers and Baker. Senator Raikes. Passing. Senator Hilgert. Passing. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President. To bring us all back up to date, LB 75 would require that ethanol be offered at gas stations in the state. Currently, 38 percent of the stations in the state don't offer ethanol blended fuels. What we'd hopefully do with LB 75 is increase the usage of ethanol in the state, thus cleaning the air and using a Nebraska product, a product that would replace foreign oil. By putting it in the lowest grade, the lowest octane fuel, we would be able to offer a less expensive product to the consumers and most consumers are price and octane buyers so we'd hopefully increase the sales of ethanol in the state of Nebraska. I have offered an amendment to allow that stations that have one tank, the stations that Senator Jones had talked about in his district, to be allowed to have a five-year period that they wouldn't have to comply with the law. And, of course, Senator Chambers had offered an amendment that would allow for two tanks to be exempted for the five-year period. That would increase the exemption. I'm in opposition to the Chambers amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator