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FLOOR DEBATE

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terminal. They've said, yes, we can provide it to the other terminals; but, you know, there's a lead time of a couple years to see if they want to put in the facilities, the tanks and so on. So it was interesting to see who the opposition was. To be honest with you, I guess I hadn't paid too much attention to the committee statement. Obviously, the supplier, one of the larger suppliers in this area was Whitehead Oil, Mark Whitehead testified in opposition to the bill. And I don't have a transcript of it, but I would guess he's echoing a lot of what I'm saying. This is putting ourselves at the mercy of big oil. We're going to mandate subgrade 85 octane fuel to be used in Nebraska, we are at the mercy of the refiners and the pipeliners. You talk about getting yourself into a tight box with no way out, we'd be doing just that. And also in opposition is the Nebraska Sierra Club. I'm going to have to go pull the hearing, the transcript on this. I don't understand that, but they are in opposition to this bill also. So as I said before early this morning, the consumption of ethanol has gone up dramatically in the last year. I don't know why we want to upset the apple cart when we're up to 35 percent for the year 2000; 35 percent of total no lead sales contained ethanol last year, 295 million gallons. That's be 29.5 million gallons of ethanol that was consumed in the state. And I'm wondering if we're going to mandate people buy this and retailers market it that we ought to make sure that there's no ethanol imported into Nebraska. It's also got to include in this committee, in the green copy or an amendment that says any ethanol used in Nebraska shall be produced in Nebraska, not imported from wherever. That's something I don't think the bill addresses in any way, shape, or form, imported ethanol being used in Nebraska. I know for a fact that we tried to buy ethanol out at the Sutherland plant for our own use, retail, couldn't get it. So I'm not sure that all the ethanol that's being used in Nebraska is even being produced in Nebraska. So with that, I'd ask people to support the bracket motion. It will give us a chance here to see what happens in the next year with the market. There may be some changes, and I think the more important issue we are faced with as a policy-setting body is LB 536. I think we need to let LB 75 sit, go to LB 536. It's out of committee. It's Senator Cunningham's priority bill, Senator Dierks' bill, get this LB 75 off the plate for now and