

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

April 23, 2001 LB 536

any of those same properties that MTBE has. If ethanol is not produced and the petroleum industry has to continue to live under the federal mandates of providing oxygenated products, they have to go to something besides MTBE because we've outlawed it in Nebraska. But those products that they have available are every bit as bad as MTBE is, and I think there's a number of them that they can use. They'll do the same things that MTBE does. It will cause...they are "carcinogenic". They will cause cancer in people, and we have the safe products with ethanol, besides the fact that we are promoting an agricultural product, besides the fact that we are providing jobs in local communities. Besides all these pluses, we are also providing a product that is clean burning and takes care of many of the problems that we have with the current additives to gasoline...that petroleum producers add to their product. We haven't talked an awful lot about that, but I think we should. The costs that Senator Chambers talked about is about...I've lost the...I've got enough stuff over here for...the production of ethanol is energy efficient in that it yields nearly 25 percent more energy than is used in growing the corn, harvesting it, and distilling it into ethanol. It's 25 percent more efficient. And this is from a study done by some economists and U.S. Department of Energy. I've got 40 references here that wrote this thing and they conclude that the net energy value of corn ethanol is positive when fertilizers are produced by modern processing plants. Corn is converted to modern ethanol facilities, farmers achieve normal corn yields, and energy credits are allocated to coproducts. Corn ethanol is energy efficient as indicated by an energy ratio of 1.24, that is for every BTU dedicated to producing ethanol there is a 24 percent energy gain. Moreover, producing ethanol from domestic cornstalks achieves a net gain and a more desirable form of energy. Ethanol production utilizes abundant domestic energy supplies of coal and natural gas to convert corn into a premium liquid fuel that can extend petroleum imports by a factor of seven to one. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Baker, on the motion to bracket LB 536.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members. I need to