

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

April 25, 2001 LB 75, 536

The Governor is back in D.C. right now, according to the paper, working on the ethanol issue and trying to get a positive energy policy. I tend to...I disagree with some of the things Senator Chambers said about the ethanol importance in the world and in the United States economy. And I'm not going to debate that issue, but I think we should move ahead regardless of what we do or don't think the Governor will do and let him make that decision. I'm going to reiterate once again I think we ought to decide which one of these bills we're going to put our money on, so to speak. I think LB 536 encourages ethanol production; it gets away from the choice issue that we're offering, or lack of choice some would say, in LB 75. But let's make a decision and move forward regardless of what we think the consequences may be down the hall and do what we think is right.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers, to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Wehrbein misstated what I've said. I said we ought to be an independent body, but I'm practical and realistic, Senator Wehrbein. And I gave a scenario which you probably didn't hear, just before you spoke, about how bold and courageous the senators are when they're all together here. But when time comes to confront the Governor they're afraid. There are people who will vote for this bill. And if the Governor sends word that he doesn't like it, you'll see them falling away. You have seen that happen on bills while you were here, I've seen it happen, we'll see it happen again. He calls people in on various bills and tries to bludgeon them into submission. So that is the reality that I'm talking about. When I bring forth an issue I do what I think I ought to do. But I try in every way I can, when I'm opposed to a bill, to find that weak link, to do everything I can to generate opposition. So I'm reminding those senators who feel bold now that they should know that their vote is recorded and they ought to be prepared to continue to vote that way, but you and I know such is not the case. So, when they get their cloture vote they've got to get 33, then they've got to hope they get 30 to advance the bill. I have heard today people who voted for LB 75, people who voted for LB 75 telling me they're not for it now, and I knew that would happen at the time; I told you all it would happen. Senator