

March 5, 1980

LB 637

our own fuel at the same time and help the economy of the state and ease the freight, or I should say the shipment, the rail problem that we have in the state, by keeping the grain in the state, the by-products or products that can be used in feedlots to produce more livestock, and it is a high protein food that could be used for human consumption for export purposes, and I am told that when these finished products are shipped overseas there is no tariff placed on this product, while if we send the raw grain many companies impose a terrific tariff on this grain which doesn't make it competitive with the local grain. So here we can do several things by looking towards the production of alcohol. I move that this bill be advanced to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of Senator Maresh and LB 637. I believe it is unfortunate indeed that we need to go this route. I believe that the language as passed under 571 should have been sufficient. I think it is a disservice to the people of the State of Nebraska that for more than nine years we have vacillated in preparing some kind of a valid energy program. I can point out at this time on the floor of this body that this Legislature has consistently and continuously, for more than nine years, supported the alcohol fuels program, and it is to the credit of this body that we have done so. I would just like to point out that when we started out on this road nine years ago we were ridiculed and harrassed and then attempts were made to intimidate this body from pursuing what has proven to be a most valid and viable course. At the present time gasohol is not only a national but an international word. Other countries have taken the lead in attempting to become energy independent while in this nation due to the fact that many people elected to high office are subservient to major oil companies and major grain companies and perhaps even to some of the financial institutions. The ability to fund alcohol plants seems to be almost nonexistent. I can report to you that notwithstanding the brave pronouncements made by the President of the United States relative to his administration's commitment to increase the production of alcohol for power that at this very time the loan guarantees that have been proposed by the administration are very.... stand in a good position to be jeopardized by people within the administration themselves. I have visited with all members of the Nebraska congressional delegation. They are not aware of this, but the evidence is there that the