

growers wanted 3.1. The reason for 2.7, ladies and gentlemen, is because it allows for the use of MTBE, which is produced by the petroleum industry, principally from natural gas which is, of course, a derivative of coal. When you opt for the 2.7, you are fronting for the petroleum industry which is what, of course, some people want to do, hopefully, no one on the floor of this Legislature. I would hope that you would recognize that there is a major, there is a major contest going here. If you go for the 2.7, you are, in all practicality, ruining the market for ethanol. There will be no ethanol development and you are misled if you believe otherwise. And, secondly, when you get to the second paragraph from the bottom of the page, reference to a review of the impressive history of the growth of the ethanol industry in Nebraska, ladies and gentlemen, the petroleum industry had nothing to do with that. The reason you have the industry in Nebraska today is because this Legislature, in 1971, passed LB 776, signed into law by Governor Exon. On the floor of the Congress, Congressman Thone carried legislation for years which made it possible for the federal government to get involved in this. The petroleum industry has fought it all of the way. They continue to fight it today, and they do so very effectively. Ladies and gentlemen, if you are going to listen to this letter and change your vote in a matter of several days, based upon this letter, then I wish you would listen to what I am saying here today. Many of you are relatively new on this floor. You do not know the history of the ethanol industry in this state. In 1971, it was soundly and roundly argued and opposed by the petroleum industry. In '73, four and five, when they were short of fuel, they embraced ethanol and bragged about their ethanol blended fuels because there was a shortage of it and they were in deep trouble. Then as they came along and developed a glut of petroleum again, thanks to the Sixth Fleet protecting the Gulf of Hormuz, we find that they now discover that ethanol is no longer necessary to them and they are on a crash course to develop MTBE and other types of what they call "reformulated gasolines", which means no ethanol. The last paragraph says it would appear that the bill would preclude the use of ETBE as an additive. Ladies and gentlemen, once again, do not be misled that the petroleum industry gives a darn about the development of ETBE. They want to develop MTBE, not ETBE. The ETBE industry is a long way from having a marketable product. Once again, Nebraska is in the forefront of that development. The Nebraska Ethanol Authority has made an investment in an ETBE plant and probably will do another one, but it will be years, several years, at least, before we have