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tell you, I'm not a senator that can lose in this debate, but I would strongly urge that you support the committee amendments because they will accomplish every single one of the goals that we have talked about today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. I yield my time to Senator Beutler.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Suttle, thank you very much. For those of you who were not aware, there was a period of time in the eighties, mostly, where we did have, first of all, a larger penny...I think it was at five...five-cent tax exemption which eventually came down to a two-cent tax exemption, which is the same thing that we're putting back in place now. Overall, statewide, ethanol sales are 23 percent of the market today, 23 percent of the market. It happens to be up around 30, 31, 32 percent of the market in the urban areas, Omaha and Lincoln, and down about 15 percent in the rural areas, which has always been a great irony to me. But the basic fact is across the board with no incentives at the pump today, it's 23 percent of the market. In the last year of the prior program, before we switched over to production credits, when it was also 2 percent, the market share was over 50 percent, 52, 53 percent. The price of ethanol in the eastern part of the state is as low as or lower than the price of regular gasoline to the retailer. If they are selling it at more than regular gas, it's because they are making...getting benefit, market benefit out of the higher octane. And there are some of them who are selling it 5 or 6 percent above regular gas based on a market pricing mechanism that tends to put ethanol between a lower...their lowest octane and high-priced super octane gasoline. Amoco is a company that does that. Then they put ethanol in the middle at 5 or 6 percent...5 or 6 cents above regular gasoline, which I think is outrageous and I would encourage all of you not to go to Amoco, and I want to say it just like that because there is no justification for what they're doing and people ought to know that. All I wanted to indicate to you though basically with the