

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

May 13, 1999

LB 605

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Stuhr's amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The Stuhr amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Senator Wickersham offers AM1628. (Legislative Journal page 1911.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wickersham, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This is a simple amendment. It is one that saves money, and it is one that keeps a bargain that we struck in 1995. But I don't think that Senator Stuhr and Senator Schrock and other people, who want to spend money on this particular program, are going to like it, because it cuts off the checkoff a year early, and that doesn't allow them enough money to give away in the fashion that Senator Stuhr is proposing in this bill. And I say "give away", because I, despite the handout that Senator Schrock handed out, to show the benefits of ethanol in the state of Nebraska, I don't know if we need to give away more money from producers and end users that I represent on this kind of a project. We've already given away enough money. And if you've read a packet of information that was furnished by some other people, you'll see that we have indeed in fact just simply given away money, and we're proposing to give away more, if we have anything at all to show for it. There's certainly nothing to show for it in areas of the state that I represent. We paid our fair share. We will have made the amount of money that amounted to our commitment that was made in 1995. We will have made our contribution to the \$33 million that producers committed to this program, and that's enough. We started out with a \$17 million commitment in 1990, then by 1995 producers were making a \$33 million commitment. If we keep on the course that is proposed in the bill that you have, we'll have wound up paying in something over \$40 million. I think enough is enough. The people I represent have nothing to show at all for this program. And I don't think they need to pay any more, and I suspect that situation pertains in a variety of other places in the state of Nebraska. We've kept our bargain, we shouldn't be asked to do