

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

May 13, 1999

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producers. Now I think this is a little different than the Minnesota situation. I don't know if the Minnesota people have anything like LB 775 but, certainly, here in Nebraska if there was ever double-dipping, most, if not everyone, of the ethanol companies are engaged in double subsidies. So I think I'm going to support and I think probably I would encourage all my colleagues to support Senator Wickersham, and maybe we ought to just scale down this program altogether. And in proportion to what the producer fees are scaled back, so we should also scale back the state funds to keep with the original agreement, especially if most people are convinced that the money is being thrown away; in any event, that the development of markets in California is really the key factor and they are going to expand to fill that market, if it's there, anyway, why should we be going forward with this program and why should we be going forward with the program with a group of people who are breaking the deal and then blaming other people when they want to break the deal further? I see no logic to that nor no sense of fairness. All I see are people grasping, people in certain narrow areas of the state grasping for a double subsidy. So I'm real interested in what happens with this particular amendment, but if the producer groups in this state don't themselves support this particular endeavor, I don't see how somebody that's not from a producing area should have any interest in supporting the overall project? I'm real discouraged with the keeping of promises, I guess, real discouraged with that part of it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Kremer, followed by members, Baker, Schrock, Stuhr, and Coordsen. Senator Kremer, on the Wickersham amendment.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I've heard that this hasn't benefitted the state, and I try to think of anything that I can think of that has benefitted our state and all of us more than what the ethanol industry has. I think of the environment, we talk about that all the time, how we need to protect our environment, and many of the big cities have mandated ethanol use or blend in our fuels because it helps our environment. It's also a renewable source of energy. We import a lot of oil and I think all of us here probably can remember a few years ago when gasoline got so high and it was rationed then