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grandfather of the ethanol business in the state of Nebraska. He became interested in ethanol when there was an ethanol plant in Omaha, Nebraska, in Senator Hilgert's district and he wanted to preserve it. And his concept was to use this in motor fuels, and it was a new concept at that time and a lot of doubting Thomases at that time. But Senator Schmit prevailed; and to my knowledge, the first ethanol sold in the state of Nebraska was at the Holdrege Co-op Association. I was there. Senator Schmit was there. It was in 1975. The ethanol used was wood ethanol. It was imported from Washington or the state of Washington or the state of Oregon. But everybody filled their cars up that afternoon and we all wondered how far we'd get down the road. Well, to my knowledge, I think most of us made it home. But I don't think the ethanol industry would be where it is today had it not been for Senator Loran Schmit. Also interesting enough, other states are looking at ethanol. North Carolina is going to build three ethanol plants. They're going to use corn and sweet potatoes. Louisiana is going to build an ethanol plant and they're going to use sugar cane and rice hulls. So we're not the only state looking at an ethanol program. Maybe I'm cynical, but I don't happen to believe that big oil really has the interest of Nebraska at heart when it comes to this issue. We have no refineries in the state of Nebraska. I think big oil is concerned about losing their 10 percent of the market share and who knows what the future might hold. The Nebraska Corn Board has a vehicle running around the state that's fired with 85 percent ethanol. But right now we're talking about a 10 percent mix of ethanol in our gasoline. And I think one of the most important aspects of that is that it's a renewable fuel and that it can be produced from a Nebraska product. I'll leave you with a quote from the deputy director of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture who oversees the ethanol program in the state of Minnesota: before our law became effective, we heard many of the same dire predictions Nebraskans probably hear now. These predictions did not come to pass in Minnesota and they are unlikely to occur in your state. Minnesota has done quite well the past two and a half years with what is an ethanol mandate. And I believe we take the sting out of the mandate with the Connealy amendment so that it's not a mandate. But I do think we need to take steps to try and increase the use of ethanol in the state of Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.