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SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the bright spots in production agriculture is the change in way we are using our grain. We're processing, we're retaining value here in the state more than we ever have. In 1990, we had one plant that produced ethanol in the state and now we have seven. We went from 10 million gallons to 350 million gallons in production in the state, and that's really not changed the market completely, but it's changed the basis. If you live near a plant, that helps you. It probably helps those communities that have the production. It helps jobs even more. It's a growing industry in Nebraska. It's helping employ union workers and pipe fitters. It's providing truck driver jobs and maintenance jobs in these plants, and it's really helping the economy outside the metropolitan areas of the state. And I think we need to continue to do that. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Let me say at the outset that I do sell corn to ethanol plants and I do use by-products. I have not filed a conflict of interest. Maybe I should have. I'll let you decide and maybe I can still do that. But at any rate, I did want to ask a few questions to enlighten perhaps only myself. And, Senator Schrock, if you'd participate, I'd appreciate it.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR RAIKES: First off, regarding current incentives for ethanol, do you know, Senator Schrock, there is a current subsidy at the federal level, there is a current subsidy at the state level. Do you know what the federal subsidy is now?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Raikes, the federal subsidy is 54 cents a gallon on the ethanol. By the time you blend that with the gasoline at 10 percent level, that amounts to 5.4 cents per gallon.

SENATOR RAIKES: So in effect a gallon of ethanol pays 5.4 cents less per...in road taxes than does a gallon of unleaded gasoline.