

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 1234

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President and members of the body, I just want to stand up and talk for just a little bit about my district and my people that's a concern. Even when this bill was in committee, I started hearing from the Sandhill area. There's a lot of people up there that's got the old tractors, the little Internationals and little Ford tractors that they only use probably about 40 or 50 days a year, and it's right in the hot part of the summer. And they're really concerned about that because the tank that they have to use has not had ethanol ever in it, and I know what happens if they put ethanol in them tanks that's sitting out on the farm. They will need several filters before they get it all cleaned out and then it will go down into the tractor and a lot of them little old tractors do not have filters so they'd have some problems there. And also there's a lot of small planes, the older small planes they use in the Sandhills. They claim that you cannot use ethanol, in fact, they tell them not to use ethanol in it; but they have got permission from the FAA to use regular car gas in it. Okay, if this is mandated, where are they going to go? They'll have to go up to the 91 octane. And right now in Custer County I cannot buy 91 octane anyplace because it's 10 cents a gallon higher so they're not even handling it. So it's a big concern. I have a letter here from a fuel man that's in Arnold and he says, I used to enjoy...he worked in the fuel place there selling gas for 34 years. He said, I used to enjoy it, but today every time you turn around somebody is telling me what I have to do and what I cannot do. And I think that's a big concern there. And right now I don't think I can buy ethanol in any station between Broken Bow and Alliance on Highway 2. There's a station in Thedford that tried to handle it awhile, and he lost enough business by it so he quit handling it. But my big fuel carrier in Thedford has...he owns the Thedford Sandhill Oil Company and the one in Hyannis and he built a new one in Stapleton. He's got a delivery route of (inaudible) 200 miles in diameter and he does not handle ethanol in any station and he says he's not going to. He don't want to be mandated to do it. So that's what I'm hearing in my Sandhill area and I'm really concerned about it. I talked to a fuel man in Broken Bow just the other day, and he asked me the question. He says, straight ethanol from January 1 until now has went up 27 to 28 cents a gallon and why? He cannot figure that out. I mean if he just wants to buy