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wholesale level was cheaper than unleaded gasoline.

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct. One point one cents.

SENATOR RAIKES: Yet given that situation there was only 23 percent consumer choice in the direction of ethanol?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, that is correct and that's unacceptable to me.

SENATOR RAIKES: But, well, doesn't that indicate to you that consumers prefer not to use that product?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That indicates to me that the retailers were charging more for it and pocketing the money and so...

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, so recently, at least in the case of Lincoln area, ethanol is cheaper than unleaded gasoline. So you would expect then the percentage of usage to be where?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I think the percentage of ethanol used is increasing, but you see it priced all over the place yet, Senator Raikes. I went by a station last night where the ethanol was 5 cents higher.

SENATOR RAIKES: But you would not be in favor of allowing that market to develop and consumers to be able to choose which product they wanted to use.

SENATOR SCHROCK: I would like to see consumers have a choice of an 87 octane ethanol, which they don't have, and that's the product that is being sold in Minnesota. Seventy percent of their market is 87 ethanol blended gasoline. They don't sell that in Nebraska to my knowledge. It's always 89 (inaudible).

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. And your solution to providing that product is through government rather than through a business decision through the market.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, I think that's what we need to do and I think that's what the state of Iowa is going to do this year.