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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Connealy, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've covered a little bit that this does change the bill. It changes the bill from mandating a sale of ethanol in all gasolines except for premium, to requiring that we offer the sale of ethanol in the lowest grade octane available in a location. It doesn't say that a marketer cannot offer a low octane, "nonethanol" blended fuel, it just requires that we offer ethanol at the lowest octane available at that station. If you look at the amendment, it does nothing to hamper contracts that are now in place. If you have a contract to sell a certain kind of fuel, this doesn't affect that. As you renegotiate contracts, you would renegotiate under this law. It sets out what renewable fuel means. It says that the Legislature especially recognizes that renewable fuel and the development of this is important to our state. And that's really what's driving this today. Oxygenated fuel from renewable sources promotes cleaner quality water. It promotes cleaner air, and it also promotes an industry that, as we stated before, is growing in this state. I passed out a blue piece that showed that there are 38 percent of the stations here in the state don't offer e-blend fuels. There's certain sections of the state, as has been mentioned, that actually mandate that a consumer can't have ethanol because the infrastructure is not there to present it. This will allow for the ethanol to be available everywhere in the state and I think it's the next step that we need to increase the use of ethanol in the midwest and increase the growing industry that we have here. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I do support the Connealy amendment. As he said, we don't have a choice at a lot of stations we stop at. Let me talk about mandates. I don't know when it was. Somebody can help me out on this, but it's been probably 20 years ago, the federal government mandated that we take the lead out of gasoline. And I could tell you mechanics were selling additives, they were telling you engines wouldn't run right on it. How many want to put lead back into gasoline? I think we have better quality