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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Schrock, on the Connealy amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, some facts about ethanol. One bushel of corn can produce 2.5 gallons of ethanol. Ethanol fuels, ethanol-blended fuels represent 12 percent of the U.S. fuel sales. One acre of corn producers enough ethanol to equal ten barrels of oil. Using ethanol decreases demand for imported oil and MTBE by 98,000 barrels a day. 23.8 gallons of ethanol displaces one barrel of imported oil. Over 2 million...over 2 trillion miles have been driven on ethanol-blended fuels since 1980. I think it's important that we ban MTBE. I think it's important that we offer ethanol in this state at a level that is affordable and cheaper. It will bring the price of gasoline down in this state. It will help consumers and yet they will still have the choice to buy the "nonethanol" gasoline if they want to. As for me, I choose to burn the clean-burning fuel. I choose to burn the fuel that is renewable and it's renewable on our farms here in Nebraska. I choose to burn the fuel that creates over 4,000 jobs in the state of Nebraska, high quality, high-paying jobs. I choose to burn the fuel that helps rural economic development with its sites of the ethanol plants in the state of Nebraska. Tell me where the downside is. You say it's a mandate. Well, we mandated that lead get out of the gasoline. I think the state is ready for this. KRVN, a radio station in my area of the state, did a poll on their web site, and I suppose this could be skewed but of the people that responded, 78 percent of them said they would approve of a mandate of ethanol fuels in the state of Nebraska. KRVN is a radio station there in Lexington, Nebraska on the AM...on the FM side of the radio dial. It doesn't have the coverage that the large radio station is. The number one contaminated site for MTBE is in Eddyville, Nebraska. One tablespoon of MTBE will contaminate an Olympic-sized swimming pool and make that water undrinkable. Yes, we deal with mandates every day. We tell people what they can sell, what they can't sell. We tell people they have to strap their babies into the back seat of their cars and wear...use car seats. We deal with mandates all the time, and it seems me that's what the opponents of this bill hand their hat on. Well, we have a lot of fuel standards, too, and as I said, there are 200 ingredients