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in gasoline, and probably a lot of those ingredients, if used wrong, could damage an engine. I don't buy the argument that alcohol damages engines because it doesn't. Research has proved so. So I appreciate your consideration on the Connealy amendment. It's good for the state of Nebraska. I think it will increase the use of ethanol, and for that reason, I appreciate Senator Connealy's offering this amendment. I'll give the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. We are debating the Connealy amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1234. Those wishing to speak are Senators Schmitt, Redfield, Chambers, Vrtiska, Jones, Baker, Connealy and Stuhr. Senator Schmitt.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, members. I guess one thing I want you to do is look at this little blue sheet of paper that Senator Connealy passed out. It talks about the 1999 service station survey. And if you look at that very carefully, it looks to me like the rural area, not all of the rural area but most of it, Valentine, North Platte, Sidney, they're not very supportive of it. You look at the Lincoln, Omaha area, their percentage is higher. I don't believe that the rural people really want to use this, for some reason. Whatever reason it is, I don't know. And I guess as Senator Schrock said, as far the engines, I have never said on the floor here that you can't use it in your engines. You can. What will happen? I don't know if anybody knows for sure. I know of an instance that happened with the fire truck at home here a couple of weeks ago, when the rubber was no longer usable on one of their starting engines because of ethanol, or that's what they blamed it on, anyway. But the MTBE that we are talking about, if we take that out, I suppose that is a mandate. When we took the lead out, I guess that was a mandate, but I think we took that out because of health reasons. Mandating seat belts, mandating stop signs, I don't think those are mandates. I can drive through a stop sign, I can not wear my seat belt. I may have to pay a fine, but that's my choice. If we do this, I'm not going to have a choice. All I'm going to say is I would ask you to oppose Senator Connealy's amendment and then probably support Senator Jones'. It will make a lot better bill. Thank you.