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LB 1234

Trade Council; Omaha Building and Construction Trade Council; Omaha Federation of Labor; Sierra Club; Sutherland Associates; and WIFE. The organizations that opposed the bill were the American Petroleum Institute; BP Amoco; Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa Car Council; Sapp Brothers; Sapp Brothers Petroleum Incorporated. Now the ag community and their organizations have annual conventions. They have sessions where they talk about policy and they take votes on issues. Most of these farm organizations have discussed this issue at their annual conferences and have voted in support of an ethanol mandate, and I think we're coming halfway here. And if we pass this, I won't be back next year with a mandate. Maybe Senator Connealy will, but I won't. So I think our ag organizations are starting to take this serious. For those of you in the urban areas, I appreciate the fact, you don't know how much I appreciate the fact that you've been using the product. For those of us in the rural areas that aren't using it, I don't understand why not. I think they've had too many mechanics tell them what's wrong with the product and I just don't know how to answer that. I've told somebody this story, but I'm going to tell it again. We bought a new pickup about five years ago. It's a ton pickup, dual wheels on the back, carries two round bales of hay. We can haul hay to our cattle that way. And it never ran right from the first day that we bought it. And we had it about six months and it had been in the shop about four times, and finally the mechanic asked me if I was using ethanol. I said, sure. He said, well, that's your problem. So I went to the dealer and went from the shop to the showroom and said, you know, if this pickup won't burn ethanol, I'm going down to the Dix (phonetic) dealer down the street and I'm going to trade it off on one that will. He said, we can take care of it. You know, that pickup has run 4.5 years without any problems. Ethanol was never a problem. Ninety-nine percent of the mechanics that tell you ethanol is a problem, it's something else. So anyway, those of you in the urban areas who support this bill, who have been using ethanol, I wholeheartedly appreciate it. I don't know how to explain why more rural people aren't using it, but I think we're seeing a new awareness out there. A lot of farmers are hauling their grain to Hastings, to Columbus, and they're hauling it York and Aurora, and they're starting to realize that this is a good product. It's a product that I'm growing and we're going to use it. So I think the trend is turning around