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SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...2,542 of those sites. At those closed sites, we have not tested for MTBE. At this point, we're not...the NDEQ is not going to go back and require testing at those sites. We have the potential at those sites of having MTBEs and contamination at those sites that's spreading rapidly. But unless something else happens, there isn't going to be additional testing. We don't know the magnitude of the problem in Nebraska where we have supposedly not even had this contaminant level here. It concerns me that we have a magnitude of a problem that at this time we don't know and we may not know. The requirement in this bill is...in this amendment would be that no more than one percent MTBE...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...would be sold. The reason for that is just like others, in cases of traces. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. You've heard the opening on the Preister amendment, AM3136, to the committee amendments to LB 1234. Open for discussion now. Senator Schrock, followed by Senators Chambers, Beutler, Connealy. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a very important amendment that Senator Preister has brought to us, I wholeheartedly support it. Fifty-five percent of the MTBE that we use in this country is imported. With all the attention brought about on MTBE, if we don't ban the use of it in this state, we could become a dumping ground for it, and I don't think anybody in this legislative body wants that. It's very important that we...that we ban this product. I think Senator Preister's amendment allows for trace amounts, so we don't want to penalize somebody who there might be a trace found incidental. States around us are banning it and certainly it's probably good news for the ethanol industry because, with the lack of the MTBE being brought to us, the ethanol becomes the most viable ingredient for enhancing octane. I would say this about MTBE, a year ago the petroleum industry, who doesn't like this bill, told us that, no, there was no MTBE being brought