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LB 1234

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I will begin my close, Mr. President,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I know that my time is running. Members of the Legislature, at a point like this, at a point of this kind it will sometimes be stated that here we are at crunch time or where the rubber meets the road. This is where the nozzle enters the gas tank of the consumer, or where the state government puts the bludgeon over the head of the small entrepreneur and says, you shall offer this product for sale, even if nobody is going to buy it, not because there is a compelling state interest on behalf of the citizens at large, but because certain large corporations want to get a larger share of the market or drive the people out of business who are not voluntarily going to offer this product for sale, and it might benefit some large growers of corn, but it's not designed to benefit the populace. The way you benefit the populace is to allow them to continue purchasing what they want to purchase. The retailers try to figure out what the target population wants to buy and will offer for sale that product for which there are willing buyers. This bill is designed, in its present state, to say we don't care about willing buyers, we don't care about willing sellers, we are going to mandate for a small, special interest group what merchants must offer for sale, whether anybody wants to buy or not. And, if nobody buys, what happens? Well, we don't want to go that far, we're the state, we're just interested in compelling. So, what my amendment does, being very frank and direct, is to make everything in this bill optional for the merchant. If the merchant feels that there is a market out there, where he or she is located, for ethanol products, the merchant may offer that product. Isn't that the way things are to be done in America? You offer for sale what you choose to offer for sale. You are the one who made the investment in money, you are the one who is giving the time, you are the one who has built your establishment to whatever status it occupies at this point. You should be able to exercise the same options, now that you're in business, that you exercise or were able to exercise that persuaded you to go into business. So I'm asking that you adopt this amendment which would change the word "shall" in the Connealy amendment and substitute "may".