

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 28, 2000

LB 1234

we're placing over their head a cloud that other businesses are not required by the state to operate under. In effect, the year January 1, 2002 is a sunset on all these small businesses. We did not bring them into existence, they are not continuing to operate because the state is taking money out of the General Fund and giving it to them. They are not operating because the state created a program that gives them tax breaks to maintain and sustain them. We are sunseting them for no good reason. So, I hope you will adopt my amendment and remove this additional source of stress and distress on the smallest of operators, in rural areas of all places, where we have two bills which are designed to help in that area where, I think, one of the city slickers said there are two economies because of what's happening or not happening in the rural areas. Why place a sunset on stations in the rural areas? That is the question. I hope you will adopt my amendment and conclude that we ought not sunset those stations.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on the Chambers amendment, FA356, to the committee amendments to LB 1234. Now open for discussion. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President. We don't want to close or hurt these small stations, but we also don't want areas of the state to not be offered the best product. And I believe that the "e-blend" fuels is a cleaner product, a better product for the state. And by the infrastructure not delivering this product to certain areas of the state, I think that we're hurting that area of the state not allowing them to have this better product. What our original bill did, and with the amendment, it gives them more time to do it, but I think that we want to move the state toward ethanol fuels offered everywhere in the state, and so I would rise in opposition to the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Schrock, followed by Senators Baker, Beutler and Raikes. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Chambers, your amendment intrigues me. I, personally, don't think it's a problem. Can I...may I ask