

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

March 28, 2000

LB 1234

priced the same as no-lead, are exceeding no-lead sales.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Baker, I'm going to oppose your amendment. I appreciate the fact that you're offering it at the same price, but I would guess your wholesale price for the ethanol is cheaper yet. But it does bounce around. On a yearly average it's not going to vary much. What I would like to see is the 85 octane brought in and blended with ethanol, and then we have a product that's going to save the consumers money. Most vehicles don't need the 89 octane, Senator Baker; they'll run just fine on 87 octane. And we need to bring that "suboctane" gasoline in. I heard that 90...70 percent of the product in Minnesota is 87 ethanol blended octane gasoline. Senator Connealy said 60 percent, I'm not going to argue with him on that. But the fact of the matter is, if you bring the "suboctane" gasoline in and blend it with ethanol, the price to the wholesaler and to the consumer should be cheaper yet. And that's been part of the problem is they'll price the 89 octane higher. Unlike you, a lot of them aren't fair about it. They say, well, it's a higher octane, we need to charge more for it, and then they don't sell as much of it, and then they don't dedicate one of their larger tanks to it. And it's just a whole...I had somebody tell me, well, we don't want to price it cheaper because then we'd sell more ethanol and we'd have to switch ethanol to our larger tank. I'm going to oppose your amendment, I hope you understand why. I would hope that in the future, come next October, you're selling an 87 blend ethanol, and you can sell your regular 87 unleaded too. So I hope the body understands that, I hope you understand why I'm opposing your amendment. I think your amendment does weaken the bill and will reduce the sale of ethanol and that is the reason I'm opposing it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Schmitt, on the Baker amendment.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Mr. President. I got a question for Senator Baker.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker, will you yield to a question, please.