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SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Well,...

SENATOR CONNEALY: ...but I'm not...I'm not positive on that.

SENATOR RAIKES: I would just say that I don't disagree with your objectives. I just think that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...what you're proposing won't work. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Dickey, on the Jones amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1234.

SENATOR DICKEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise to oppose this amendment because I believe this amendment basically guts this bill. I support LB 1234. As a producer of agricultural commodities, I have some real concerns about the current trends in agriculture in this nation. One of the concerns I have has to do with OPEC and the way in which they supply our oil and supply our energy. Ethanol is a renewable source of energy and it's right here in our own state. If we are going to maintain a viable agriculture industry in this state we are going to need to expand our markets and to restore profits. For the past couple of years, our producers, our corn producers, many of them have produced corn at or below the cost of production. Now they can do this for a certain period of time, but over a period of time they're going to lose their equity, and when they lose their equity the farmer is going to be gone. Now I know that somebody is going to farm the land. That's a given. But my question is, who is going to farm the land? Who is going to be making the decisions in production agriculture in the year 2010? If we are going to make these decisions in production agriculture, are they going to be made at the local level? Will the decisions in production agriculture be made around the kitchen table on the family farm in the heartland of America? Or are the decisions in the future in production agriculture going to be made around the corporate board table in a high-rise building in a metropolitan city? I believe the best decisions in production agriculture are made at