

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

March 29, 2000

LB 1234

the local level, close to the land. I believe those decisions are best for the producer and ultimately for the consumer. Rural agriculture has a proven track record as far as production, as far as performance. Nebraska is the third largest corn producing state in the nation. We need to develop these markets to utilize the corn that we produce in this great state. Ethanol production will help these markets and will help the farmers in this state of Nebraska, and I believe will help the entire economy. I urge you to oppose this amendment and to support this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dickey. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I also stand in opposition to this amendment and I still support the basic legislation. As been suggested already today, we've watered it down considerably yesterday and, for that, I think that I have some reservations. But Senator Dickey said it extremely well when he talked about the economy and what corn producers can gain in this state by having ethanol production increased. We know, we heard yesterday that we have about 40 years left of crude oil production in this world, so then what will we use after that? Will we be running 100 percent ethanol in our vehicles? I think that...I think we need to consider all these things, but I think we need to be very careful about believing some of the corporate messages we get. They remind me of some of the same corporate messages we got regarding production agriculture. This Koch Industries letter, for instance, you take that second paragraph from the bottom: Add to these factors issues such as refinery production restrictions, pipeline delivery constraints, terminal storage limitations, and customer delivery logistics along with a dynamic and competitive wholesale market pricing system and guarantees become meaningless. That sounds like a corporate cop-out to me. They've used all those same terminologies that I heard from IBP, the same terminology that I hear from Cargill, the same terminology that we hear from all those corporations that deal with ag commodities--guarantees become meaningless. The only thing we know is that the guarantees for profits in those corporations are going to be there. We know that IBP...the CEO of IBP received a \$7 million bonus, \$7 million in wages last year. Six million of those were a bonus that his