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LB 1234

letter here--guarantees become meaningless. I can state the fact today it is three cents a gallon higher. We confirmed with Koch Industries in Wichita that they do not deliver any 85 octane fuel from any of their refineries into Nebraska now. I don't know what they'd do. If we mandate it I think there are absolutely no guarantees it would be cheaper than 87 octane fuel. It certainly isn't today. It's not used very much. They were trying to get a market share of 85 octane for us and we should eventually have that, but it's minor, very minor. I'd get back to the amendment, Senator Chambers' amendment, this is absolutely critical to me. We have the people out there doing the job selling, retailing, this ethanol now and if we don't adopt this amendment I can guarantee the retailers are going to get their backs up and say, look, we're selling the 89 octane ethanol; we're trying to do a good job. They have it marketed correctly right now.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: We can't guarantee what the markets are going to go down...what they're going to do down the road, nobody can, but they're out there marketing it. The market share has gone up, and I know that the retailers are going to resent having to stop selling 89 octane ethanol, go back to 87. And, as I said when I began, this bill does not address the real problem. That's the marketing, the retailers. You can't blame the refiners. The gas is priced cheap...the ethanol is priced cheaper than the...than the 87 octane no lead, so you've got to look at the retailers' end of this thing and this bill absolutely does not address that in any way, shape or form. So I think it's very important that we adopt this amendment to the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Vrtiska, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the body. I...I just wanted to speak for a minute. I listened to Senator Dickey and Senator Dierks talk about production agriculture and I'm interested in production agriculture, and I'm interested in corn production. One of the things that really bothers me, really bothers me is that a handout we had