

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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with and what I would do on LB 1234. Because at the point of which there was a green copy of the bill I was getting letters from constituents, so were you, and I wrote back a pretty standard letter--I'm going to vote against LB 1234; it is a mandate from government that's inappropriate in the marketplace and I'm not going to take away consumers' choices; no matter what the rest of my political philosophy may be I'm not against the free market, in fact I think the free market works pretty darn good on a number of occasions and I'm not going to force people into buying certain things when other things are available. So I've been writing about a dozen, two dozen letters of I'm going to vote against LB 1234, which allows you pretty simply to kind of ignore the conversation on the floor. You know how you can just kind of tune out because you've already taken a position? Well, unfortunately, Don Preister got his MBTE (sic--MTBE) amendment adopted and I think that's a great amendment. I like that one. And then Chris Beutler got his groundwater map all put together. That's a great amendment. I supported that amendment and wanted that to be adopted. And then the Bromm amendment got adopted and saying, well, we're going to take out the two...the "two-holers", as you might be calling them, and that sounded pretty reasonable. (Laughter) Now, we're left with what's left in the bill, and I got to say, from having written two dozen letters of I'm going to vote against this bill, I've now got these other cars on the track that I want to vote for and we've done something good on LB 1234. So let me tell you the bill I would vote for; the bill I would go back and explain to the two dozen letters that I've written that things have changed. And the bill would say this. It would have the ban of the MBTE (sic--MTBE) in it, it would have the groundwater in it, and it would have the Bromm amendment in it and it would say this--if you have three tanks you sell ethanol; if you have three tanks you got to make ethanol available to the public. Put it in state law. Got three tanks, you got some options here. Ethanol burns a little cleaner. There's a social purpose there. Ethanol uses corn. There's a social purpose there. I'm not going to tell you your octane. I'm not going to tell you your price. I'm not going to tell you what you, retailer, have to do. But if you feel yourself pressured by the oil companies, if there is a big oil company conspiracy to price ethanol out, I'd say get yourself a darn good lawyer and go consult the Restraint of Trade Acts,