

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

March 29, 2000

LB 1234

SENATOR STUHR: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would give the Speaker additional time if...you're fine? All right, thank you. Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I stand in opposition to Senator Wickersham's amendment, but I did want to share a letter with you that appeared in our local newspaper, and it said, "Lately one of the hottest topics of discussion has been the ethanol bill. I work for one of those ethanol plants which are owned by Americans, provide jobs to American workers, and buy corn and milo for those underappreciated American farmers. It is a shame to me that some of the people of this state oppose ethanol so adamantly. Our forefathers, mainly farmers and soldiers who fought to make this country free from foreign rule, would be turning over in their graves to realize what their descendents are allowing the Arab world to do. To appear ignorance, these Arab world supporters have no problem of letting another country tell us what we will pay for fuel, and yet we, as a country, cannot support our fellow American farmers making a living at one of the world's most honorable professions. We should support an industry that provides American jobs and provides income to the local and state economy. My challenge to these people who are so dead set against ethanol because their vehicles won't run right is to come up with a way of making ethanol work." And I really don't agree. I think that we can work on this. "Has America lost its innovative spirit that has made this country great? In other words, quit whining and find a way to make it work, just the way Americans always have when faced with diversity. Another fact that has been misrepresented in another editorial is that ethanol costs more than gas. Wrong. Ethanol sells currently for around \$1 per gallon and gas at \$1.50. Again, ignorance rears its ugly head. Change is a scary thing but so are gas prices above \$2 per gallon. Folks, that poor Middle Eastern sheik has enough of our money already." And he ends his article by saying, "Ethanol opponents can be proud that no one can tell them that they have to support an American industry instead of an ever depleting resource controlled by the Arab world." And I guess that I would agree with that, that ethanol really reduces the demand for foreign oil by 1,000 barrels a day in the United States. And I think that that's something that we need to be concerned about. Also, Nebraska burns 900 million gallons of fuel and that means that