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FLOOR DEBATE

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last year in Lincoln the blended price was about 4 cents a gallon cheaper than the straight gasoline price. If you just multiply 4 cents times the gallons used, you see it is advantageous to all of us. It's not just rural, the farmers, but it's also economic development in rural and that's one area that we've really been trying to work on a lot in the last few years, and you can help the economic development in a pretty small community. I don't know of any programs that are more of a plus on all sides as a clean-air fuel that rely...that diminishes our reliability...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR KREMER: ...or reliance on the Middle East countries for oil. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. This isn't an issue that I usually get involved in, but I've listened very closely and I've read it, read the bill and the amendments, but I do have some concerns, and Senator Bourne brings them concerns up even more. Since I've been in the Legislature, one of the things I hear is we don't have enough people in the state of Nebraska paying taxes. I agree with that. So why in the world would we not support something like Senator Bourne wants to do, is try and keep as many jobs as we can in the state of Nebraska? The people who come here and work, out of state, do not pay income tax and most of their sales tax in the state of Nebraska, and they take employment away from our people. And I've heard a couple of times that those people that come in have specialized, you know, trades. Well, I know for a fact that some of these ethanol plants have been built by people in the state of Nebraska and using labor from the state of Nebraska, so that...that argument, in itself, does not hold water for me. We've got the people here and I think we should do what we can to make sure our people at least have a chance to bid and do what they can...do what we can to give them that employment first. I think we owe that to them, and that's what I'm going to keep in mind when