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FLOOR DEBATE

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of ethanol produced. Do these plants sell all of the ethanol they produce?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Oh, I'm sure they do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now here's my next question. Does a gallon of ethanol produce the amount of energy that it takes to produce that gallon of ethanol?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: The last figures I saw, and there's...it's constantly improving, but the last figures that I could quote you off the top of my head, you get 128 percent, 130 percent return on 100 percent of energy.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you're saying that ethanol produces more energy than the amount of energy it takes to produce the ethanol.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, and it may be higher than that now, but that's the last numbers that I recall.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Who produced those figures, the industry?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I don't recall. I would have to get that from our Ethanol Board or something. But they're constantly looking at this. The plants being built today are much more efficient than those five or ten years ago. It's just like in lots of things, we're much more efficient.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, then, Senator Wehrbein, ethanol is the energy source used to produce ethanol, isn't that correct, since you get such a high energy yield from it?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Natural gas is one of the heavy energy sources.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why don't you use ethanol?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I can't answer that. I don't know why they don't use raw alcohol, but I...