

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

January 20, 2004 LB 479

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Wouldn't that produce a market for the ethanol if you use ethanol to produce ethanol?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'm sure if they could they would. I know they're recycling the heat.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Members of the Legislature, ethanol production is a sham. If it were not for these big operators, we would not even be having this discussion this morning, and these big plants that they're talking about, which are so efficient in Nebraska, would not be here. Nobody cares about Nebraska. Senator Wehrbein did make it clear, when he was talking about weaning America away from its dependence on foreign oil. He made it clear that ethanol is a drop in the bucket. You will never produce enough ethanol to wean America away from the use of fossil fuels, whether in this country or someplace else. You never will do it. But the public is not going to have those kinds of things stated in a forthright manner. When Congress was looking at whether or not to include ethanol in this energy bill, there was politicking going on, twisting of arms, and none of it had to do with anything related to the amount of energy produced by ethanol. The big heavy hitters were involved. Nebraska's economy has not improved significantly as a result of the production of ethanol. Little towns are still dying on the vine. Rural people still cannot find employment where they live. The rural areas are still being decimated populationwise. Ethanol is not a savior. Ethanol is a product which benefits the speculators, and they can do a good job of politicking and public relations work as it relates to influencing politicians. They're the ones who are going to hit the jackpot. If there is a pot of gold, the speculators are the ones who are going to gain from it. Why do you think we have senators, if ethanol is such a good product, why do you think we have senators who want to take away the requirement that you let people at the pump know that ethanol is what is being dispensed? If it's a good product, it will sell itself. They can't even get Nebraskans to purchase ethanol to any great extent, and some of those most reluctant to purchase it are in the rural areas. Maybe it's because they know ethanol. But at any rate, this is not that beneficial to the public or to the state.