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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 1065

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill at this time, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. We return to debate on LB 1065. Senator Stuthman, you are recognized to speak, followed by Senator Chambers and Kremer.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. First of all, I would like to clear up some of the comments that are made, you know, that maybe it's realistically what people are thinking is, is the only benefit is to the people that produce the corn or grain sorghum or whatever it is in the product that is used to make ethanol. I think we're forgetting one of the most important parts of this ethanol project, and that is the Clean Air Act. Why do we use ethanol? Do we use ethanol just because we raise corn? No, I don't think so. I think that the ethanol is used mainly because of where we're at in the position of the Clean Air Act. Burning ethanol is clean. Years and years ago, when I was a kid, there was a lot of lead in the fuel, in gas. You'd put gas to start a little bit of a fire burning some trees and brush, you'd put some gas on it, and you threw the match at it, and "ker-whoom," it blew up. Singed the hair off your face. It had a blast to it. Since they took the lead out--which, the lead was an octane enhancer--since they took that lead out, it doesn't do that anymore. Now if you want to start a little fire with gas, you got to get very close, hold the match on a place where you put the gas, and make sure the wind isn't there so it burns our match out before you even get it started. There is no boom anymore to it. In later years, it was...MTBE was put in the gas for an oxynate (sic) enhancer to help with the octane. This kind of a compound into...adding into the formulation of gas is very readily dissolved in water. And it was found in a lot of the cities that were using the MTBE that it was getting into the groundwater. So, with the Clean Air Act and with the possibilities of hurting the groundwater, that is being taken out. Now ethanol has been put into the gas, just for an oxygenate to help with the octane enhancer to make it so that it works better. And I think that is a very important thing of it. You know, in the cities, where a lot of fuel is...a lot of cars