

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

April 6, 2004 LB 1065

sustainable and necessary and is this renewable fuel source? The demand is there. It isn't some fad. We've got automobiles that we're going to be using for a long time that need ethanol to run. It isn't like we're speculating in some wild commodity. Ethanol is here to stay. And I think it's very short-sighted if we do not get on the bandwagon and look forward to utilizing one of the biggest crops we have, which is corn, to produce fuel, which is a necessary commodity that we're going to have to have in the future. And it is necessary, I think, for the financial stability of our state to investigate this and at least do this first step. This is a tiny baby step toward, I think, what could be the threshold of a big industry for Nebraska. It already is. This is the one industry where we have people coming here without the promise of a lot of incentives already, people that are willing to go out on a limb, some of the ethanol producers.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR COMBS: And granted, you know the EPIC Fund has certainly attracted some producers here. But I think, let's not be short-sighted. Let's not say, well, cut them off; it's just a freebie giveaway that, you know, these guys are coming here for that and that's not all. No, let's control the freebie giveaway, but let's also not be short-sighted and not be unwilling to give what little we can to promote the good of the entire state of Nebraska. And like Forrest Gump, that's about all I got to say about that. I probably won't be saying much else. But that is my belief on it. And I would hope that the body, if you're not decided, would consider my comments and perhaps take them into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Combs. The Chair recognizes Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I want to get us a brief update to where we are on LB 1065. We adopted Senator Landis' amendment dealing with some flexibility built into LB 775 yesterday. And we had quite a discussion. We eventually adopted the committee amendments. If