

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

May 17, 2005

LB 90

America's energy needs. How long is it going to take for ethanol to eliminate America's reliance on foreign oil? More and bigger vehicles and machines are being produced and sold that rely on petroleum-based products for energy. How in the world can people in a state which places so much emphasis on the production of ethanol going to overlook what a trifling, piddling, inconsequential impact ethanol has on America's reliance on foreign oil? That should not be the argument, because it's bogus. You can talk about helping ADM and these other multinational corporations that want to make money producing ethanol. And ADM, when they get their subsidies, Senator Wehrbein, I was talking about the federal subsidies. And ADM was getting some Nebraska subsidies. All of them have. If the subsidies go away, ethanol goes away. Ethanol is not used to produce ethanol. If every gasoline- and petroleum-burning machine will burn ethanol, why is not ethanol used in the equipment that produces ethanol? Why is not ethanol used in all of the trucks that transport ethanol across the country? This is bogus. Just explain what is actually involved in the ethanol industry. It is to help investors. Those are the ones who benefit primarily. I wanted to offer an amendment, in years past, to require these plants to first use Nebraska corn before they got it anyplace else. And you know what I was told? Well, you can't separate Nebraska corn from other corn...from corn from other states. You can't do that. That's impossible. Then why do all this talking about how much good it's going to do for the producers in Nebraska of Nebraska corn? It's bogus. But those purveyors of ethanol, those greedy investors, have seen what a pushover the Legislature is when it comes to giving money and incentives to urbanized businesses. So the way to sucker the rural sector...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is by saying, well, this is going to build up the rural economy. How many small rural towns that were dying have now taken life and been resuscitated because of ethanol production? Somebody might say, well, there's a little town out there where there's an ethanol plant, and people in that town work at the plant. I'm not talking about the area where the little hangers-on benefit who are right there by the