

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

February 8, 2006 LB 776

collected at this landfill and used as a clean-burning fuel at the ethanol plant. The bill includes an emergency clause, because it takes time to generate methane gas, and the landfill would like to begin the process as soon as possible. As you can see, this plan will benefit many people and be environmentally friendly as well. The landfill will have the opportunity to make better use of the methane gases already produced at the landfill, and profit from its recovery. The ethanol plant will reduce the amount of fossil fuels it must use to produce the ethanol, replacing these limited resources with a renewable clean-burning fuel. The public will benefit from reduced methane gas emissions in the air, and area residents will also benefit from the elimination of a separate garbage pickup for yard waste. The landfill will be able to produce and sell fuel to the ethanol plant for approximately 25 percent less than the natural gas for equivalent BTUs. Use of landfill gas is an effective way to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, create energy, reduce the use of fossil fuels, and save money. According to the EPA, methane is a reliable source of energy because it is generated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. By using landfill gas to produce energy, landfills can significantly reduce their emissions of methane and avoid the need to generate energy from fossil fuels, thus, reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and other pollutants from fossil fuel combustion. To me, this is a win-win situation for everyone, and I ask for your advancement of the committee amendment and the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Engel. (Visitors introduced.) As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments by the Natural Resources Committee. Chairman of the committee, Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. The committee amendment becomes the bill. The amendment was presented by Senator Engel at the hearing and adds clarification. It allows a permitted landfill to accept yard waste year-round if the yard waste will be used for the production and recovery of methane gas, or if it is to be used for soil conditioning or composting. It also adds the emergency clause so that this bill could be used this spring and summer.