

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

March 22, 2006 LB 968

use more petroleum than we receive out of ethanol. I think some of the more recent studies that have used the modern technology and the most recent technology both in farming and in ethanol production show something totally different than that. I do believe that the facts that you used were probably accurate in the earlier ethanol production, but I think that has changed. But we have a contract with these plants that are out there now. I believe there's 11 plants and we, the state of Nebraska, has a contract with them and we have no choice but to pay what we owe on these contracts. Now we need to make it very clear that this money is only going to these 11 plants. There's no new plants coming on board that have not been qualified already that will receive any of this money. Now you can make any number of arguments why ethanol is good or why it's bad, but we have a contract and we have to pay it. What are we going to do next year? If you look at the sheet Senator Wehrbein handed out, we're going to have 21 new members, or probably 21 new members, and we're going to saddle them with the burden of paying this. And I believe now, while we have some sort of an excess, we need to be putting some money into the program. And so that's pretty much where I stand. I'm against the amendment, and I will end with that and give some time to Senator Landis.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: I don't...I think I've made my position clear and I'll just waive the rest of the time. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham, did you wish to have...? Senator Brown, followed by Senator Kremer.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, I wondered if Senator Wehrbein would yield to a couple questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, would you yield?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BROWN: Senator Wehrbein, right now, what is the mix of ethanol to petroleum gasoline in the current mix that's sold at the pumps?