

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

April 21, 1999 LB 389, 605

issue. I will be supportive of that issue. But we certainly had discussion about that in the Natural Resources Committee, but I'm ready for a mandate because the petroleum industry is not marketing it fairly with some exceptions, and so from that standpoint we have a superior product. It's good for the environment. It's good for our ag economy. And I commend Minnesota for their mandate, although they had other reasons to implement the mandate because they had an air quality problem in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. So, Senator Beutler, thank you for raising that issue, and it gives me a chance to talk on the issue, and I appreciate that.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the body, I just am glad to get to talk on this, too. This is LB 389 in our committee and we had a hearing on it, has a lot of discussion on it because the petroleum people, they was concerned because it was going to mandate them, and I wish there was some way that we could get the price the same at the pump. I think they're probably the culprit of it and we just can't get it changed, but when you start putting a mandate out, I'm just concerned about that because I don't think that's the right thing to do. Some way or another, I think we need to address it so that it'd be priced the same at the pump, but I'm glad that Senator Beutler brought it up because we did have a long hearing on it and had a long exec session on it trying to decide what to do with it, and we did vote it out. I voted no on it because of the mandate and I think the vote was 6 to 2 in favor of it but, anyway, we wanted it out on the floor and we didn't know what was going to happen to the other ethanol bill, so that was one reason we had it out. But with that, I'm glad that Senator Beutler brought it up but I think I'm going to stick to my guns and say no on it here, too, because I don't think that's the right thing to do and I think we need to work something out in the future on it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, and members, very briefly, I struggled with this for quite awhile and I really