

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR CONNEALY: My aim is to make available 85 octane that can be blended to an 87 octane everywhere in the state so that everyone has the opportunity to have a higher quality cleaner fuel developed.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You just threw me a curve. Senator, is there a requirement in this bill that a refinery be established that produces 85 octane?

SENATOR CONNEALY: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then how does this bill ensure that there's going to be 85 octane available in this state?

SENATOR CONNEALY: By declining to the lowest octane, that it will do that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But that doesn't ensure that 85 is going to be in this state. It only ensures that if 87 octane is the lowest grade, then you're going to have to add ethanol to it. That's all this bill does, doesn't it?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Right. Yes, and just as the Wickersham amendment, it could raise the price of regular unleaded without ethanol to fit that amendment, just as you say they could not deliver 85, but I believe they'll deliver 85 here.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But if they raise the price of regular, wouldn't that help you in selling your ethanol because now the regular is not cheaper, it's higher.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Yes, but that's not the...that's not the goal. The goal is to have...have a good quality product at a reasonable price.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then you don't care if the ethanol costs more than the regular? Is that what you're telling me now?

SENATOR CONNEALY: No, no. I think it will cost less under the current bill the way it's amended.