

their advantage, the \$17 million. I support Rod Johnson's amendment, basically, because those farmers have put that Ethanol Authority in trust of their money. They have acted relatively responsibly and look like they're going to continue to do so. And if we have the progress that's been made in the last three or four months continue over the summer, I can see that the need for the Ethanol Authority to have access to the \$17 million will be there. We're not talking about something out of our General Fund, something out of the state Cash Fund, something out of the sales or income tax, we're talking about a tax, as Senator Haberman has said, that has been put into this fund by the farmers and, I think, to protect their interests, we need to go ahead and allow the funds to be used if they need to be in this next six or eight, 10 months, and not have to come with an appropriate...or a deficit appropriation or something like that that would be a hindrance to the progress between now and next January. I would ask for your adoption of the Rod Johnson amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Korshoj moves the previous question. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Johnson, would you care to close?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I think that debate has covered the issue fairly well. I would just ask that the funds be put back into the...into the ethanol funds, so that if the board does find a project or projects within the next seven months that they feel that they can make an investment in, the money would be available for them to do that. As I said, and I think Senator Haberman has also indicated that the Agriculture Committee has introduced an interim study resolution to look into the activities of the Ethanol Board. Some of the points that Senator Haberman made he made in the committee with his bill on this issue and I think there are some legitimate questions that have been raised that do deserve some answers. So I think the committee will be looking into that. In the