

of that and see the more prudent course is to spend existing funds, \$17 million is a lot of money, to get the biggest bang for our buck on into the future without simply paying off an existing plant in Hastings and, you know, I don't know about the plant in Sutherland, but I guess my question is, can we really afford to do this? And I think Senator Wehrbein hit the nail on the head, we really can't, and I guess I prefer the other option of skinning the cat and look at the promise side of things.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. The next speaker is Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise to support Senator Wehrbein's amendment, and I might as well just speak now at one point in time and say that I also oppose Senator Johnson's amendment. And I want to make very sure that I understand what your amendment is Senator Johnson, but at this point in time, I want to talk about Wehrbein's amendment. It is my understanding your checkoff does not kick in until the fund reaches a level of \$3 million, and you also built something in there regards the requirement for a certain amount of production, as far as gallons?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, if I could...

SENATOR SMITH: Would you like to clarify it a little bit, please. Would Senator Wehrbein respond to a question?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wehrbein, would you respond please.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Senator Smith, the idea is that when the fund drops below \$3 million, the checkoff would be initiated. It is figured on a quarterly basis. Also there must be 75 million gallons of production of alcohol in the state. It is my understanding right now there is about 12 1/2 million gallons, annual production. So the intent is to be sure that there is quite a significant amount of production in the state before we even consider funding this initiative and I think there is enough money in there now to last a couple of years, depending on how it...

SENATOR SMITH: How things go.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...how things go, the equity versus the production incentive.