

the benefits to the agricultural community. Well, as I indicated in a little conversation last night, I'm not totally convinced that a great deal of benefit does accrue to the agriculture community from the use of gasohol and ethanol blend in the vehicles in the State of Nebraska or, for that matter, in any other state or community in the nation. The real benefit, real benefit that accrues to the citizens of this state and nation is, quite frankly, in air quality. That can be best demonstrated by the requirements, the mandates, as it were, in some of the population centers that are having pollution problems insofar as air pollution and the various precipitants therein to mandate the use of an ethanol blended fuel during certain times of the year which brings me to the point that I think...that I would like to make and that is that...

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...I think we move to the time when perhaps we shouldn't be asking agriculture to carry any more of the burden, that perhaps we shouldn't be asking the Highway Trust Fund to carry more of the burden or if, in fact, they should be asked to carry the burden out of our Highway Construction and Improvement Funds that they currently do. Perhaps the question we should be asking ourselves is if we ought to move into this area in a way where all of us, all of us, everyone who travels the highways and byways of the State of Nebraska would have a larger commitment to the use of ethanol and the financing of those various plants and the use. So, with that, since the time has just about expired, I think that perhaps we have moved past the time...

SENATOR CONWAY: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...when the 2 percent...two-cent gasoline credit is necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. We'll go to Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, Senator Warner and Senator Coordsen raise a good issue on that two cents and it was raised earlier. And I have no objection, really, if you want to take that out of there because I think we have some other benefits here that are substantial and I think that also the reference Senator Warner made to the drain on the road fund