

April 7, 1992

LB 754

what my amendment was about and I would withdraw that amendment at this time.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: It is withdrawn. Next amendment, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator, I understand you want to take up your amendment now, AM3930, found on page 1883.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: This, Mr. Speaker, members, this has to do with what Senator Lynch just briefly spoke and withdrawn. This does state the credit shall be funded through the ethanol production incentive cash fund, but shall not be funded through either Highway Cash Fund or the Highway Trust Fund. And it goes on to continue to say that we'll use the ethanol production incentive fund. And it's a clarification of what Senator Lynch was talking about. I urge the adoption of this amendment because it does clarify what he was saying. I am perfectly acceptable to that and I would urge the adoption.

SPEAKER BAACK: On the Wehrbein amendment I have a number of speakers. I will go through the list to see if they wish to speak to this amendment. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR P. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I rise to talk a little bit about both Senator Wehrbein's amendment and Senator Lynch's previous amendment which he withdrew. To categorize the subsidies that have been provided for ethanol production as a farmer subsidy is I think incorrect. In fact, the farmers, through the corn, wheat, and sorghum checkoff actually paid into the program to help develop markets. That was the purpose behind Senator Schmit's original bill when we developed the ethanol fund was not to subsidize farmers or to subsidize their production, it was to subsidize trying to develop an incentive program much like 775 and bring new businesses to the state. It's interesting if we'd ask ConAgra or somebody to pay into an incentive program for 775 benefits, I don't think they probably would have liked that too well, Senator. But on the other hand, the issue that we really need to talk about is not necessarily what's in this bill right now but it really is one that this future Legislature is going to have to deal with and that's the sustainability of the fund itself. You aggravate the problem