

place into another. We're not collecting a half cent or a cent at the gas pump that the consumer doesn't know about, we're being up front and honest saying, this is what you will pay, this is what the state will contribute. You will look at the fact that in this budget we are going to have to find \$4 million General Funds and you will look at the next out biennium and see we are going to have to find \$26 million to fund this program and then 12 million in the out biennium. If we change to one-half cent, and that's one of the reasons why this is a hard issue for me, we are going to have to find 6 million when we come to the budget this year, we will have to find 30, 31 million in the out biennium and we will have to find about 16 and a half in that second out biennium. Those numbers are a reality because they are listed as General Fund appropriations. We will be under a great deal of pressure to find General Funds with three-quarter cent. We will be under more pressure if we take a half cent. Now General Funds come from everyone in the state and all of us contribute whether we're a producer, a farmer or a business person and I want you to consider that in this discussion and this argument. How serious will you be if you support a half cent in finding the money in the General Fund because it will require some very tough decisions. That's outside of the argument on who should pay what and whether or not that's fair to producers. Just so I can finish Senator Beutler's question of earlier, the biggest impact for those who sell to an ethanol plant has been in the Columbus area for Minnesota corn processors. But that plant is a producer owned plant, it's an investment. And the person who invested receives a dividend basically. It doesn't mean they're getting 10 cents a bushel more when they sell. They have a contract to provide X number of bushels of corn to that plant. When Cargill is completely up and running they will be a different for...kind of a plant. They will not be investor owned, they are a private industry and they will buy not only from individuals but from cooperatives and from all of the different avenues that exist in the market. So when they bring corn in from Iowa or buy from the middle of Nebraska and ship it east they will impact the overall market. Will I get 10 cents more a bushel if I sell my corn to Cargill? Probably not. Will I get more than a penny more? I doubt it because it's a market that doesn't see huge fluctuations...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...unless all of it moves up or all of it