

commitment on this tax through the year 2000?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: At the present time, yes, that that would be...that would be...I would see our contribution to this, in addition to what we put in, in the past. I assume you're looking forward.

SENATOR BROMM: I'm looking through the year 2000.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. Now, that is your intent. Do you know of any commitment from appropriations, from the Governor, from anybody that it will be no more than three-quarter cent? Do you know of any commitment on other people's parts? I've been told that there are ag groups whose intention is, in supporting the three-quarters cent, that this be it from now to 2000. Do you know of any commitments on that?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I would understand that that's probably what their intent would be. And it would be my intent, as an individual Legislature...legislator, to do that also. Admittedly, I can't bind future Legislatures on what we may do. I think there is a good faith compromise, if you will, or commitment if you will, to...with this three-quarter cent that the additional funds needed would come from General Fund. We would continue to phase down the motor fuel tax, as we are doing, that type of thing, and the fertilizer tax, which of course goes away.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. I...I don't know what the body is going to do for sure. They'll probably...probably go with the three-quarter cent. I'm going to support the half cent and my rationale for doing that is that I think the intentions are that three-quarters cent be agriculture's commitment from now, based on this handout and based on what's been said, those are the intentions. My concern is I don't believe that that's a commitment on the part of the Governor or anybody else that is in a position to affect what happens. I don't think that that's a commitment or anybody's part, that is simply intentions. And I don't want...I don't want to mislead my corn producers and my constituents who think that this is going to be it if we agree to the three-quarter cent, because I...I just don't think that we have that kind of commitment from anybody in a position to affect a decision.