

a half cent, that was my original proposal. I have Hamilton County in my district which is the largest corn producing county in the state, most years, most years, depends on the wind. However, they came to me with a bill asking for one cent. These producers said one cent is fair. Three-quarters cent, to me, represents a good compromise, and I would also say a half cent would just be perfect. For me it's a better deal, in a year, like this last year and the year before where I don't have a lot of crop to sell. However, I don't believe in good conscience that we can or I can support a half cent knowing the General Fund appropriation will be very difficult to find, and knowing we might have to cut other programs that are important in their appropriations in order to do a half cent. Let me remind the body of one other thing so it's up front. This is a direct transfer of money every year from the State Treasurer to the EPIC Fund. This will not be on an appropriations budget, this will be in the Governor's budget. That's the other assurance, I think, that I can live with three-quarters cent in knowing we will not be back in again, or year after year after year making a decision about how much money we give to ethanol. This bill will solve the problem. It will allow for a direct transfer to take place every year, and we will not be playing with the ethanol funding from the General Fund every year based on whatever issue or whatever pressure point someone wants to create. With that, my final statement would be to my colleagues, I encourage you to vote against Senator Schrock's amendment for the reasons I've talked about with General Fund money, and thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Stuhr, followed by Senators Hartnett and Chambers.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I probably represent the second largest corn producer in the state, or maybe actually the first, I'm not sure, but it's very, very close, York County. I stand in support of Senator Schrock's one-half cent. I just want to remind the body that when they look at the chart that the one-fourth cent, we are already paying one-fourth cent. If we go to a half cent that will raise it to three-fourths, up a cent already. And just a fact that maybe actually hasn't been brought out, that back in July of '86, going through December of '87, all producers paid an additional one and a half cent per bushel for 18 months, or 2 corn harvests to originate and begin the Ethanol Fund. We built that fund to about \$17 million,