

sold in the State of Nebraska and that is from the excise tax, not General Fund money.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay.

SENATOR McKENZIE: I would also add that the money that is used or appropriated to the Department of Agriculture for the program itself, collection and administration, comes from the EPIC Fund, comes from the money appropriated or from the excise tax.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR McKENZIE: It's not a separate category...

SENATOR AVERY: It's not...

SENATOR McKENZIE: ...of General Funds in the state. It comes directly from the EPIC Fund money.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay, thank you. I just had a question. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is next, to speak to the Withem amendment to the McKenzie amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, and I think to help clarify, in fact, it may confuse more, but from my understanding, Senator McKenzie was correct that the way the bill now is drafted it has been interpreted by DAS and others that in the upcoming bienniums, not this one that we're currently working on, but in future biennium budgets, biennial budgets, it would be simply...it would not be an appropriations item. It would simply be a direct transfer. And Senator Withem, I think, has brought probably the question that we want to do, and I'll caution the body as a danger of proceeding with the concept that we now have, that is within the bill now. And the danger would be if we began doing it as an automatic transfer, I understand why I, in support of ethanol, would like that, but I also understand that any other issue that people have on other things that interest them, this would be the new way to go. You would not have to come back and you would not have to come back to the next Legislature when we build the next two-year budget and justify the dollars or continue to have it in, given the