

conversation has gone on the amendment, I have had a chance to check with the Corn Growers and those that are certainly interested in the ethanol and they have no problem with the amendment, and I'll repeat that. They have no problem with the amendment. Their feeling is with this amendment, then the bill moves and things are going to be fine and I concur with that, I concur with that. I don't see any problems on 377 with the agreement of this amendment. I do see some potential problems on the horizon if the amendment is not agreed to and that's not a threat, that's just a political assessment. I'm a supporter of the bill. I'm one of those that stood up against Micron and voted against Micron on General File because I thought that the state needed to have a better obligation of General Fund dollars to ethanol and I know there are no connections to the two, but it just so happened that we got a General Fund obligation and that was good. But I think a lot of people assumed that we'd follow the regular process and this is, as Senator Wehrbein talked about, not a quirk, but it is a different way of funding things. It's not used very often and I think we need to be very careful of that. My sense is, and if the Corn Growers and those that have worked so hard for this bill, and for those of us that have sweated blood on this floor for ethanol, if you remember last year we had, or the last two years, we had an ethanol plant that still we're hoping will get in production at Sutherland, how many amendments and blood, sweat and tears went through trying to make that work for that part of the state as well. And I have always been there on the ethanol. I have always said that we have an obligation and this amendment changes none of that. This amendment simply says the intent is we will obligate, we will put the monies here, but it also recognizes that we, as a Legislature, on not only this issue, but other issues as well, need to have whatever flexibilities are in the future. In the future would I vote for this monies? Absolutely. Would I vote to put more in? Absolutely. Would other people make other changes? I don't know. Probably. I don't know what the future holds. But I do know that if we begin using this quirk of funding, which is not a bad, necessarily, quirk, but nonetheless a quirk indeed it is, that this will come back to haunt us on other issues. And I am as frustrated as everyone else on what we could or could not do with 775. I don't think there are many people here in the body that were even there during 775. I wasn't there during 775 and I'm sure if all of us would have been there on 775, we would have made some changes. It would have been a much more to our like and I'm sure that would have happened. I say that tongue