

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker and Senator Bernard-Stevens. You will find the substitute amendment on page 1264 in the Journal. If you recall, we filed a bracket motion to, hopefully, come back to the issue that had been discussed earlier on the floor related to whether or not it should be the policy of the Legislature to do a direct transfer of money in the outbiennium years, as was originally included in the committee amendment. The amendment, on page 1264, is language that Senator Wehrbein, Senator Withem, Senator Bernard-Stevens and myself drafted in an attempt to address the two concerns we heard from the various sides of the issue. You will notice that the beginning of the amendment deals with intent language similar to intent language included in current statute that does not allow for the trust fund monies to be hit again after the tax goes off in this year of 1997, I believe, is when it is fully completed. It, basically, says that the Legislature finds and declares that those in production agriculture have contributed significantly to support the Ethanol Production Incentive Cash Fund by the imposition of the excise tax. If additional funds are needed in the future to meet the Legislature's obligation to fully fund the Ethanol Production Incentive Cash Fund, those funds should come from sources other than production agriculture. That was the one concern we heard if we took away the direct transfer. The Legislature has honored the intent language currently in statute related to the Highway Trust Fund and it is my opinion that, in fact, the Legislature would honor this intent language. It also allows that a direct transfer of funds would take place during this budget year and that is the two years that allow two million each year to be transferred. But, following that, there is language inserted that it is the intent of the Legislature that the following General Fund amounts be appropriated to the Ethanol Production Incentive Cash Fund in each of the following fiscal years and the same amounts as were in the original amendment are included. So the intent language goes into effect after this budget cycle for the two outbiennium budgets that we know have to be impacted by the appropriation and that, I think, were the source of the concern about tying the hands of future Legislatures in terms of appropriations. With that, I would yield the remaining of the time to Senator Bernard-Stevens or accept questions if people need further clarification.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens, you're back to about seven minutes.