

corn checkoff than is there...than is there today. Keep in mind that in the outyears if we were to leave the amendment just as it is, in the outyears all we're doing is saying money will be transferred out of the General Fund. We're not saying how it gets into the General Fund. And if the votes were there to do that through an excise tax on corn or grain that goes into the General Fund, the Legislature could do that. The Legislature could impose a higher fertilizer tax than we currently have to do that. There are any number of ways that future Legislatures could choose to tax production agriculture to meet the needs of this...excuse me, could I have a gavel, please, I'm having trouble with...

SENATOR LINDSAY: I only have one gavel up here, Senator Withem. I would like to keep it up here. I'll give it to you if you really...never mind. (Gavel.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay,...

SENATOR LINDSAY: Let's quiet down so we can hear Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Go ahead, go ahead and keep that up there. There are other ways in which the Legislature could find the General Fund money to fund this program other than general sales and income tax. So I think that language if the Legislature at least goes on record and placing a statement in the statutes that we're not going to go back to a specific sector of our economy to fund this program beyond what we're funding today. The figures I have are that what we have in there now is going to raise about \$33 million based on assumptions of continuing production of grain. And what this amendment says is we're doing...we're doing that much. The final point I guess I would make with regard to Micron, 775, the throwback rule, and all of these other measures, just let me say I understand the analogy and it's probably a fair one. It probably is a fair one to say that whether you fund economic development from dollars appropriated out of the General Fund or whether you fund it from keeping dollars from going into the General Fund, it does have a General Fund impact. I would argue with you about Micron but we don't want to necessarily start that argument again. But you're probably correct on these other things, particularly economic development that would have happened anyway. Back to my point though, there's not much we can do to correct that on this bill. We can, in fact, correct a problem of creating an even worse