

precedent, a worse precedent of finding a way around the appropriations process forcing the Secretary of...the State Treasurer to take money out of the General Fund whether or not the Legislature appropriates that. Again, I can think of language that would direct the State Treasurer to take money out of the General Fund and place it into an Education Trust Fund, or one that would place it into a University Trust Fund, to the point where future Legislatures could do what we've kind of done with Congress, create...

SENATOR LINDSAY: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...so many entitlements out there that Legislatures would have no...no flexibility as to spending. I think the fact that there are legal contracts out there funding...requiring that the state meet its obligation to fund the ethanol credit, plus statements of intent in the Legislature, probably means that it's going to happen. It's just I object to this legal mechanism that currently exists in the bill. That was the only thing I was objecting to the other day when I raised the questions on the floor and hadn't realized that that's what the original committee amendments had done, and that was my only point. Do we have an obligation to this program? We certainly do. Will I try to see us meet that obligation? I certainly will. If we can, and those that have studied the budget better than I have seem to think that we probably can to a much greater extent than the \$2 million a year, if those numbers are...if I'm convinced that the numbers that are proposed are reasonable ones, I will be supporting that. With that,...

SENATOR LINDSAY: Time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...I would urge you to adopt this amendment, would urge you to adopt whatever other amendments we need and advance the bill because I think it's an important bill to pass.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Bromm, followed by Senators, McKenzie, Vrtiska, Schrock, Bernard-Stevens, Wehrbein and Wickersham.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. It seems a little bit like a contradiction or an oxymoron or something along that line, I'm not sure that's exactly the right word, to propose language that says that this is all that agriculture is going to