

fertilizer tax so we can argue, is this General Fund money or is it agricultural contribution, 15 to 16 to 18 million, depending on the use this year of fertilizer tax, and about 42 to 43 million dollars in gas tax revenues that have gone into the EPIC fund. That, in my estimation, totals up with the 42 million we have included in LB 377 to be \$99 million from general revenue sources. Now let me add also that for a number of years we had a credit at the pump for purchasing gasohol. The overall impact of that credit is estimated at \$80 million. Now, simple addition, that's about \$179 million contributed from every person who bought gasoline in this state, and from the General Fund, and about 45 million from agriculture. Agriculture believed this was an investment and they were willing to accept the tax to start this investment to stabilize the economy of our commodity market. It was not an argument so much about economic development as it was about adding value to our products. And I will stand behind...

SENATOR LINDSAY: One minute.

SENATOR McKENZIE: ...the argument we have made over and over and over again in line with economic development that because agriculture has contributed up front and, in fact, were fair about coming to the table and promoting their own industry that created a history and a precedent that has been hard to break. And we can argue for hours about whether or not we should be asking agriculture to contribute at all, but I remind you, agriculture's share has been and could be 45 million. As of today, it has been 12.5. The General Fund, itself, has contributed 57 million through gas tax or fertilizer tax which was General Fund revenues and if we include the 42 million in the bill, we will have escalated that number or totaled to 99 million. It seems to me a fair, a fair partnership and I would recommend that...

SENATOR LINDSAY: Time.

SENATOR McKENZIE: I'll hit my button again.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Lindsay, members of the body, I had my light on earlier for the purpose of adding something to this debate. Senator...I had to go upstairs, you know, and Senator Schrock took away a lot of my thunder because