

we freed up 5 million dollars in the next year that, in essence, almost totally pays for the...well, it goes a long way in paying for the 8 million that we added. And so what we are, basically, saying is that we have a contract on ethanol; we've agreed, as a state, we are going to pay it. We front loaded it and we are also saying that this is the way that we can, in fact, say, yeah, we added the money and here's where we got it from, but it does keep the program. It does keep the policy because I do think that are some good things that can happen with the policy. I will tell you that sometimes it is hard for us to think about the appropriations process when it gets to the end, but when it gets to the end, one thing will happen if this bill moves on with 6 million dollars, and then it goes to Final Reading, and then, sooner or later, it is passed. It is the Governor's initiative. I am certain that he would keep the \$6 million. I am also certain that he has also stated that because of front loading of ethanol, he is going to have the veto pen out, and he will be vetoing other things that we, as the Legislature, put in. If we believe that this is, in fact, one of the highest priorities that we have, then you should vote to defeat this amendment and move the bill onward. If you think that we need to pay the bills that we have on the ethanol and that we will make a decision on spending, but this is not our higher priorities, our higher priorities may be in welfare, in special education, in the income tax rebate on education, wherever it may be, this is the time to make that decision. And I think we can...we can support this amendment, have the policy to see if we can be helpful but be fiscally responsible, so that we front loaded one end but we also began to find the monies for it. So I would urge adoption of the amendment.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** On the Bernard-Stevens amendment, Senator Wesely.

**SENATOR WESELY:** Mr. Speaker, members, I am going to speak very briefly and just indicate that I appreciated that Senator Engel has spent so much time in trying to work with some of us that had concerns with the bills. I particularly was concerned about the reporting elements, and his language is much improved, and I appreciate that. There are, I think, maybe a need for more refinement on the language. Senator Bernard-Stevens' point about reducing this amount, I suggested that some of this money go into the fund that we need to pay for the campaign finance bill that Senator Beutler has. I am not so keen on using this and designating it for ethanol. That isn't my priority. And so