

last year on the incentives bill, I had requested the transcripts from floor debate of a number of different issues, different years when the whole incentive issue had started and there were...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator McKenzie, it's hard for us to pick you up on the mike.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Sorry...various discussions about whether or not there would be a time when this alcohol, ethanol, would be used for human consumption. And there were numerous statements made on the record that that was not the intent of the program. The intent was to use corn and sorghum to produce fuel, an ethanol blend to be used as fuel. I think certainly Senator Klein is correct in saying one of the other objectives of the whole incentive in the industry was to grind corn, to add value to a commodity that would then be exported and benefit the state, to create jobs, to use up something that the state has an excess abundance of. On the other...on the other side of that, however, I have talked with numerous producers who have supported the ethanol incentives, who have been advocates, who've worked hard to help attract the companies here, who have supported the legislation in the past, who are not in favor of having us extend this credit or to allow the credit to be used for the production of distilled spirits. They feel that it goes against the original intent. They are not comfortable knowing their checkoff dollars go to support the production of alcohol for human consumption, and they are not comfortable with the idea that state money which, if you recall, we placed in the package last year, would be going to support the production of distilled spirits. That, I think, is part of the big problem in if we don't adopt the amendment. With that, I would ask for your support for the amendment, I think, based on the previous record in history of the incentives, and the discussions that have taken place among a number of supporters that it would be in our best interest at this time to support the Warner amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. There are no further lights. Senator Warner, do you wish to close on your motion to return? Closing is waived. The question is, shall LB 1121 be returned to Select File for a specific amendment? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? We're voting on whether to return the bill to