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FLOOR DEBATE

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add more farmers' dollars to this fund. The fund will not run out of money for at least two years, and probably down the line farther. If you're voting for the Baker bill because you want to give encouragement to people that are trying to raise money to build plants right now or saying that you want to make sure that they know we're going to fund the program, this won't do that. This...our EPIC Fund is as good as the state of Nebraska says it's good, and we will fund this plant building fund if it needs to be done, but it does not need to be done today. Farmers are in conflict all across the United States with checkoffs. We have lawsuits against checkoffs on an ongoing basis, and those are checkoffs that are supported by the groups that are being taxed. This actual checkoff is being opposed by the Nebraska Corn Growers, by the grain sorghum producers. It is not an industry-wide supported checkoff addition. I think at this time is not the time to raise this checkoff. And we are discussing this, even though it's under a bracket motion, and I appreciate the discussion and I'd ask that you support the bracket motion because we do not need to address this until next year.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Stuthman, on the bracket motion.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the body. I, too, also rise with a lot of angels that are on my back and on my shoulders, as was directed by Senator Chambers. Hopefully I've got quite a few of those with me this morning, and there are some days when I need a lot of angels with me. And I see that (laugh) Senator Cunningham is agreeing with that. But I truly do believe too that it's in our best interest to bracket this till next year, the fact that we do not need the money at the present time, and if we would not do this and would put the LB 479 into place at this time it would be very hard if the economy turned around and there would be funds from the General Fund to support this and we had this already taking place and the whole burden would be placed upon the grain farmers of the state of Nebraska. Like Senator Schrock had stated, \$175 per quarter section of ground additional checkoff dollars, these people need these dollars to buy groceries. They're very short of funds at the present time. And like I