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FLOOR DEBATE

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number of gallons, and then he's going to be holding it. He's not going to get reimbursed. There's no fall back. It's very fuzzy. There's some chance, if they reinterpret the statutes, that they might take it out of the Highway Trust Fund, we'd have to make it whole, but that's... Department of Revenue says now they're not going to do that, and it is fuzzy statutes. There's no question about that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Thank you. I think, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I understand where Senator Schrock is coming from because this would be different than what we've done in the past to a certain extent, but on the other hand there are lots of provisions in this bill that would seem to me to be the types of things that we would want to get into the bill, especially with regard to some of the detail, advising the Department of Revenue, the fact that we shouldn't be accepting any more applications for new agreements when we're already in a situation where there are nine plants that are going through the DEQ permitting process, so we have, obviously, a considerable obligation in all probability.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would like to hear more about the provisions of the bill that are somewhat more procedural and technical in nature, but might be helpful even if we stripped out of the bill the provision relating to the corn checkoff at this point. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Burling, on the bracket motion.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I rise to support the bracket motion. I want to thank Senator Baker for bringing this bill because it does draw attention to a very important industry and I appreciate the members of this body for supporting the ethanol program over the years. But I don't think that the bracket motion, if it were to pass, would send any message to anybody that we're not continuing to support the ethanol industry. Conversely, I believe that if we don't bracket this bill and we don't pass it,