

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 27, 2003 LB 479

ethanol. I think there will be. Importing all of our fuel needs is not a good idea. Like I said, I have always been one of the best supporters for ethanol in the legislative body, and those of you who have been here with me know that, but I'm not ready to support a checkoff at this time. The technical parts of this bill maybe have some merits, but I believe they can wait. Now if I could get a pledge from Senator Baker that he would take the checkoff increase out and pass the rest of the bill, I would go along with that. But I think at this point in time the prudent thing is to bracket it till next year. The technical part of the bills can be passed next year. I'm not ready to move this bill. I'm certainly not ready to increase the corn checkoff at this point in time. There's other people that benefit from ethanol production in the state of Nebraska besides corn producers, and if you're going to put more money into the EPIC Fund, which we don't know, by the way, if we're going to need or not, it's prudent that we have a partner. We don't have a partner in this bill. They strung us out here to hang all by ourselves. And if you're going to pass something like this, you need the support of the ag community. This bill doesn't have that. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I yield my time to Senator Baker.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker, you have almost five minutes.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Smith. Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I'm beginning to get a picture here. We didn't lock in fertilizer prices across the aisle here. They're high. We did. There's a management issue. I can see why the corn growers aren't wanting this. They can't understand that we have an obligation. We can manage this thing by putting in one-cent checkoff and if there are six...if there are four plants built, this fund is home free. If there's six plants built then we go out to 2006 or something before it runs out of money. Into the fact that the argument is made that we'd like to keep this 50/50, I have another handout, when we get rid of this bracket motion here, and I would agree to leave this bill