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FLOOR DEBATE

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had...I think it was a three-quarter cent per bushel checkoff on wheat, and we wheat growers participated to the tune of \$1.8 million we contributed to ethanol incentives, and there was.. far as my knowledge, there's never been any wheat, unless it was damaged wheat, used for ethanol production. So that's \$1.8 million in this total here of checkoff money of \$17.5, plus EPIC, so that's...wheat growers aren't even represented. I guess I belong to the wheat growers, but we contributed \$1.8 million; didn't get a dime back for it. So the argument that things are 50/50 doesn't...be careful here. Checkoff, that might have to be raised to three cents a bushel to get back caught up within the life of the EPIC Fund. So I offer that and if, you know, once the bracket motion is defeated, I'll go ahead and pass this sheet out with the particular figures on it. I don't have the TIF figures, the LB 775 or the LB 620 figures, but I do have the block grant figures here for those who didn't catch it. But there's major money been given through block grants to Blair in Cargill, \$920,000; and Sutherland, which is a defunct plant right now, \$505,000. As I said, there's five others at a half million dollars pending. I know the one in Hitchcock County, Trenton, has been approved; had the public hearing and it's in final comment period and will be approved shortly. But there's lots of money involved on the...from the public side of this that people are apparently not acknowledging or were not aware of. So the argument that they're trying to make just does not hold water. I'm going to continue to bring up the corn growers' testimony too that they were opposed to they were opposed to the bill, but yet they will admit by having an ethanol plant sited in their area, it increases the price of corn from 5 to 10 cents a bushel within that 50 to 70 million dollar...70-mile radius. I can't,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...for the life of me, justify opposition to the bill, as a corn grower, when I can put a penny in and get five to ten cents back long-term, year after year after year. I know our study in southwest Nebraska showed we grew 112 million bushels of corn on average in a 70-mile radius from the plant site, so I'd have to do some quick math but if even a nickel a bushel and times 100 million, that's a lot of dollars, folks,