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FLOOR DEBATE

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and that's on an annual basis. This corn checkoff from sorghum does not go on forever. That plant should be there a lot of years. And I just can't believe the shortsighted lack of vision that the corn growers are throwing up at us here that I just...I just can't. It doesn't make any sense to me. I don't know how they can justify it and I don't think anybody has answered that question. With that, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senators Raikes, Erdman, Jones, McDonald, and Vrtiska. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, I think this is sometimes why ag doesn't do so well in here. We get kind of divided. I am going to urge the...strongly urge the defeat of the bracket, mostly because of the process. I think that we ought to be dividing the question on that and do the technical amendments. I realize it's subjective as to whether we need the technical amendments or not. But I would like to see us then vote directly on the checkoff, whatever that may be. I'm befuddled a little bit as to what to do on that. I originally thought maybe bracketing till January might not be a bad idea, but I think we needed more discussion. The body needs to be more aware of where we're at on the need for this money. If we defeat the bracket, then divide the question as it is and get the technical amendments that I think the Revenue Committee thought that we needed, I think that's useful; then take it head-on into the checkoff money and I would be prepared, if necessary, to cut that to a quarter of a cent instead of a half. It would reduce the amount of money, but it does get us started. Because one of the things that I'm struggling with is the fact that if we're going to need the money down the road, which I think we are, and obviously we're not going to have a lot of money from General Fund to continue that, but the sooner we get started on some of that the better. If we start now, we'll gain a quarter of a cent of, say, \$8 million. We'll gain a couple million dollars between now and next year. I think it's not unreasonable, notwithstanding the philosophy of going from a half-cent to three-quarters or even to a cent. But let us get started on doing that and let that money build. It certainly isn't going to build a lot of interest at one percent, but at