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FLOOR DEBATE

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least we will have started. Because I think at this point there apparently is a reasonable chance of success at five or six plants. There is some trepidation in the country, I understand, about whether the state is going to keep a commitment. And, by the way, I think we should keep our commitments one way or the other, whatever we decide to do, and if we're going to keep those commitments then starting on something probably is reasonable. And I would suggest then if the question was divided, after the defeat of the bracket, we could go to a quarter-cent, somewhat of a compromise to those that are putting the burden on agriculture, because I recognize that as well as any, but at least we could start accumulating a little more money toward our future. In fact, I think if I do some rough calculation, it would delay our problem a full year, in terms of the requirements for the expenditure, by starting a year earlier on the input. So that's my suggestion at this point, because of the process. I don't really like being where we're at, but because we're at this way in the process with the bracket, I guess we have to defeat the bracket in order to get to the underlying motion, and then we can face this particular issue head-on, the checkoff, the checkoff amount, which is a controversial part. We can have that as a hot up debate and hopefully everyone will understand and make an informed decision. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I'm going to oppose the bracket motion for many of the same reasons that Senator Wehrbein just mentioned. To give you just a little bit of background, LB 536, when it was passed...was it last regular session, I'm not sure...two years ago, there...the plan then or the anticipation then, as is often the case with business tax incentive proposals, is that there would be two additional plants. There was sufficient General Fund money and a checkoff program put in place to support that program if, in fact, there were going to be two additional plants. Well, it turns out that a number of factors, including maybe the proposal was richer than anybody realized at the time, it appears now that there