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FLOOR DEBATE

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will be certainly more than two plants. How many additional plants is not yet clear, but likely that there will be more. To give you an idea...and this is really a money question, this is a fiscal question. If you don't want to increase the checkoff to corn growers then, if there are more than two plants built, then you're going to have to come up with some other way to come up with the money. And, of course, I would guess between now and the end of this session, coming up with the money and how much to spend is going to be a big part of what we discuss. Each plant over an eight-year period, I think, costs, if you will, under LB 536, somewhere between 20 and 25 million dollars, so that's when you count the production incentive money, that's when you count the tax incentive money and so on. So it is something that amounts to a considerable amount of money. Senator Wehrbein suggested that the question could be divided so that we could adopt the technical parts of the amendment that the Revenue Committee has worked on. I would agree with that. He suggested also that we may look at the amount of the increase in the checkoff. I think that's a good idea. The only thing that I would add is that as far as bracketing the checkoff part of it, if you will, I would strongly urge that we not go past May 1 of this year. I think between now and May 1 of this year we'll have a much better idea of just how many plants would we...would be built. And if, for example, it looks like it's likely that five, six or more additional plants will be built and will qualify for this program, then I think it would be fiscally suspect for us to simply wait until next year to do anything about it. I think that if that were clear or fairly clear come May 1 then I think we need to deal with it at that point. So again, I think there are several possibilities that we need to consider here, so I would urge your.. I would urge the defeat of the bracket motion. Thank you.

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

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition of the bracket. I think we have an opportunity to discuss the merits of the bill because, frankly, there's more in the bill than just the idea of raising the checkoff. And I think it's disappointing and I think it's unfortunate that our process has wasted an entire hour debating