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FLOOR DEBATE

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four plants, this fund will run out of money January 2006. Keep in mind we are having some General Fund money put into this program and there is a half a cent corn checkoff and sorghum checkoff already going into the EPIC Fund. And I would remind you too, we are the only state that checks off grain for ethanol plants.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I understand that and I understand what you're saying, but that's the way the plan was developed at the outset, and I guess if this body wants to make that change, that's their privilege. The thing that I am concerned about in opposing your bracket motion is mainly based on the fact that...I mean, I was just trying to find out if there was actually funds if other plants would be...would come on line and would the...if the fund would actually run out sooner than we expected it to and would deny somebody an opportunity to build a plant. Well, I think about this because, as most of you remember back in the nineties when we were flush with money, there was a discussion about the same thing we're talking about there. There's enough money. We didn't need to raise any more money, so we reduced sales tax. We reduced income tax. Guess what. We ran out of money. Now I had said at the time, and I'm not very intelligent in financial matters, but I had said at the time that we should put some of that money aside. Now I know that's the easy thing to say, it's not an easy thing to do, but had we done that how it...where would we be today? We'd be a lot better off, wouldn't we? But nobody wanted to do that because we were collecting more money than we were spending and the attitude is you don't overtax people when you don't need the money. However, if we would use the same philosophy then as we would on this and have money built up ahead, when it came to the time that it was needed we'd have the money. I don't have the answer, except to say I agree with those who say that there's some other issues in this bill that are more important probably than whether...about the amount of checkoff. There are other issues that need to be resolved and my point is I think that what we need to do is move on, past the issue of...that we're debating right now, as been indicated by others, and get on with the other points of the bill that we need to discuss and make resolution of...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.