

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 27, 2003 LB 479

have extra funding for ethanol we need a partner. This bill doesn't have a partner in it. Senator Baker will acknowledge that in the ethanol funds in the past it's been about half farmer and half General Fund money. And my urban colleagues, I've appreciated your help on this in the past, but I think we as rural senators, and I think I'm one you've been able to count on for tax incentives for projects in mostly urban areas, I only have one LB 775 project in my district and it's not a big one, but I've always supported projects for Omaha and Lincoln when it comes to tax incentives. And so I would ask you to help us find a way, if we need to generate more money, to do this and not lay the total burden on farmers. That's my big objection to LB 479. It puts 100 percent of the burden for these credits on the ag community. I don't like to say woe is me, but you read the papers, you know what's going on out there. It's not pretty. A lot of young farmers, middle-aged farmers, are saying I'm not broke but I'm going to give it up; it's not worth it. And I kind of agree with them. I kind of agree with that attitude. So, yeah, Ramie Janssen says there's a lot of small grocers getting beat out by Wal-Mart too so...when is the last time you got a tax incentive, Ramie? It's been awhile, hasn't it? So, you know, farmers can't run to another state with their property and say I'm going to farm in Kansas. Our property is here. We have a huge tax burden on agriculture in this state, and at this point in time to put another burden on them with a corn checkoff, I know it's only a half a cent, but that can be a hundred and twenty, thirty, forty dollars a quarter section of land if you're in corn production. And, of course, if you dry out, you don't pay anything. But I think it's prudent to take a look at this. This bill is just out of committee. It is opposed by all the major farm organizations and I don't think we're going to move it in its present form. So I would agree with Senator Chambers. I agreed to withdraw my motion. I don't know if there was 25 votes there or not. I've had some people advise me that there wasn't. But I did withdraw that.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: I will support the May 1 with the bracket motion, and I hope you will also.