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FLOOR DEBATE

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right? I think that the situation is serious enough, because the General Funds aren't there. There's no point to waiting for the status, as far as I'm concerned. There are no General Funds to be put into it. And so if the General Funds are not there and if we're facing that much money over a short term, I think we should seriously consider action that would preclude there being six plants. And I'm talking about going so far as to maybe cut off those applications that have already been submitted but upon which there has not been a lot of work done, because I think it makes more sense to pay those people 40 or 50 or 60 thousand dollars for the trouble they've been through and not have hanging over the state obligations in terms of tens of millions of dollars for a couple of plants that we may not be able to fund without either overburdening the corn growers or taking money out of the General Fund in large amounts that we may not have for a number of years. And I don't think we can consider those...that alternative unless there's something, some bill there, to do that. And I'm a little bit worried, given the overwhelming nature of the budget problem this year, with respect to a bracket motion that went to May 1. If it were a couple of weeks or something like that, to give people time to talk and think about it, that would be one thing. But May 1 puts it perilously close to the end of the session, and I really do think we need to make a serious effort to address that looming obligation out there. Senator Baker is right about the scale of the obligation, even though you may not agree with him with regard to the allocation of costs. My point would be I think the costs overall are radically high and that we ought to perhaps think about what we need to do to be sure there are only three or four plants and not five or six. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I reluctantly rise in support of the bracket motion till May. I, you know, I'm in opposition to the underlying bill. I'm in opposition to the corn checkoff. I believe that we can wait, but I am willing to wait till May to see if more plants are built, that I think are going to be built. Senator Baker encourages us to raise the corn checkoff now to encourage those last few plants to get in...get their funding in place and get