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FLOOR DEBATE

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the EPIC Fund balance exceeds \$20 million and restart if it subsequently falls below \$10 million. Section 7 would amend Section 66-1345.01 to increase the corn and sorghum excise tax from one-half cent per bushel for corn or hundredweight of sorghum to 1 cent beginning October 1, 2003 and extend it past that date. That's the opening.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have a series of amendments to the committee amendment. Senator Schrock has the first. Senator Schrock, AM1018 drafted as an amendment to the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: The Chair would recognize Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members, I'll withdraw that amendment.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: The amendment is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment, Senator Baker, AM1382, Senator.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: The Chair recognizes Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. We're going to back up a bit here. Senator Connealy did explain the committee amendments. You have to realize that these committee amendments were adopted last session. Things have changed since then. I have filed AM2150, substituted that for the one that was on the screen first there. But over the course of the summer and fall we've had numerous meetings. I know Senator Connealy I think has been at a couple of meetings, Senator Kremer, Senator Wehrbein. A lot of us have been trying to straighten this ethanol program out as best we could and build a consensus with the corn growers, sorghum producers, and so on. As I said on my opening, the original green copy, the original green copy was a funding mechanism for the EPIC Fund to make it whole. We had about 20 plants or 20 proposed plants sign up for the credits. It would appear that we have four plants are going