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FLOOR DEBATE

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assume these are four that have to come on line by June of this year.

SENATOR BAKER: That's correct and...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is that right?

SENATOR BAKER: Yes, that's correct. We...that was the scenario we worked on. It was four new plants, and through the course of the interim, we agreed that we would put together a new incentive program which will be...it's in the form of a bill and will be debated.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And will that bill be the same bill that has the financing for the old program?

SENATOR BAKER: No, the financing is a separate bill. I don't have that bill number with me but two separate bills, one for the new program and one to fund and make whole the EPIC program as we...as it exists now to fulfill that \$42 million obligation that we have that's unfunded at this point.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, and tell me again what the logic is of not dealing with the old program all at once, financing and qualifications.

SENATOR BAKER: We felt we needed to clarify the qualifying criteria so that we felt comfortable with the fact that there would only be four new plants to subsidize, not six or eight, or it would appear now there are six different plants that's modified their applications for EPIC funding to 100,000 gallon per year on an annual basis in order to qualify and then build the plant later. That's why we separated the issues. We felt this was important that we qualify...or clarify the qualification requirements and then we come back with a separate bill to fund our current obligations.

SENATOR BEUTLER: In the clarification of the qualifications, did...are they intending that that would be used...if this bill were passed, that that would be used with respect to companies that have already made an application?