

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

January 20, 2004 LB 479

I return the balance of my time to the Chair.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Chambers, and this, I believe, is your third time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have not voted for every ethanol bill to come through, and some of those that have been discussed this morning that may come before us are some that I'm going to oppose. I don't think everybody in this state ought to pay a higher fuel tax, motor vehicle fuel tax, to help some ethanol speculators. This is a program that never has paid its way anywhere in the country and it does not pay its way nationwide. There are federal subsidies, and those exist because of some of these huge, multinational operations who contribute money to these national politicians. Senator Wehrbein knows that. Senator Kremer knows it. Senator Connealy knows it. Anybody who knows anything about what has happened with this ethanol boondoggle knows that. And there are questions of a scientific nature as to whether overall ethanol does improve the cleanliness of the environment. And it is known also that more fossil fuel energy is used to produce ethanol than the amount of energy that will be realized from the use of ethanol, so this whole thing is a sham, it is a shell game, and it's to benefit some speculators. It has never paid its way, it cannot pay its way, and almost everything said on the floor this morning is based on the notion of sending good money after bad. The General Fund is going to be sunk deeper and deeper into having come up with money, having to come up with money, for this boondoggle. Now they want to make everybody who drives a vehicle, even though who, such as myself, will not put a drop of ethanol in their fuel tank, pay an additional tax to help these speculators. I'd like to ask Senator Kremer a question, if he will yield.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Kremer, will you yield?

SENATOR KREMER: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Kremer, I believe you have followed the development of the ethanol saga. Has the production of corn increased in direct proportion to the amount of money the state