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March 23, 2004 LB 983, 1065

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I went through this amendment very hurriedly and I read the introduction on the bill. Are we continuing in the amendment to change the support of the Ethanol Fund? As I interpreted the original bill, it went on 1.25 cent to the...direct. Did that change or...

SENATOR CONNEALY: No, that's not addressed with my amendment. That's in the underlying bill. The way we are funding the Ethanol Board...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CONNEALY: ...is through now a refund and not taking all the refund.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CONNEALY: This would...the way the bill is written, it would change the way the tax is collected so the fund would stay the same but the distribution would be different. That's not addressed in this amendment. This amendment has to do with the way we fund the EPIC Fund and the discussion under how we had built the last (inaudible) of plants. We talked about if we didn't have enough money, we'd have to come back here and figure out a way to fund the EPIC Fund; if we didn't, then it would fall back on the gas tax. And I don't want to...I don't want to take that out until we do have a solution for the EPIC Fund. And I think we should do that in LB 1065.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I understand that, and I agree. So I'm concerned about the Ethanol Board. You did...the green copy does change it and you have not amended that. Is that right?

SENATOR CONNEALY: That's correct. It would be the same amount of money but, instead of having a tax paid and then a refund,...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CONNEALY: ...it would be exempt and there'd be a small tax for the 1.25 percent tax for funding the Ethanol Board; the