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FLOOR DEBATE

March 24, 2004      LB 479, 1065

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, I will.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Schrock, I missed your early opening on this amendment. What was your rationale, in 30...in a minute or less, as to why you offered this amendment?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Well, we have made an offer to people to build ethanol plants in this state and they could apply for credits and the deadline was July 1 or June 30, I don't know which, and now this bill changes the deadline. And I think that's...I think that's a breach of good faith. I do have a request in to the Attorney General's Office. It's quite obvious I'm not going to prevail on this vote, but I would assume that if I withdraw the amendment that when we get that Attorney General's Opinion, if we are correct, that we'll have to sit down and talk this over.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR SCHROCK: I think we open ourselves up for a lawsuit. Maybe it's just a slim chance, but I think the question needs to be asked. And I don't think we can make laws in this state and then come back two years later, three years later and say, no, we didn't mean it.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. Thank you. And this is the application. I, too, rise to oppose the amendment and the main reason is very selfish. I've got enough gray hairs. I don't have room for anymore to try to finance these, Senator Schrock. I strongly believe in the ethanol and I think we're on a good track in this state, but sometimes we're going to have to be realistic and realize that we cannot afford to continue to incent these. Now, after we have the debate on...was it LB 1065, Senator Baker? And I see some inclination to fund this in whatever methods we're going to do it, and obviously there are several out there, perhaps I will change my mind. But at this point, there...I just have enough gray hairs and I think many of the body do. I just don't see how we're going to be able to scrounge for this money any other ways, and I think this is reasonable to cut off the applications. I don't see that that is sticking a fly in anybody's ointment at this point.