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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 1065

producing. You can see...and I'll go over this in more detail later, but it depends on when the plant came on-line. You'll see Husker Ag, the top left column there, \$342,000 beginning in May of 2004. They have different starting dates on their subsidies because of when they actually went into production. But the bottom line of this chart is that, come August 2005, the fund will be in a deficit position. If we paid the subsidies that were obligated to us in September 2005, we'd have a shortfall of \$449,849. LB 1065 rectifies that problem. It fully funds four plants throughout their life. So how do we do that? If you want to go through the bill section by section, the pertinent sections are Section 4 on page 5 of the bill, through January 1 of 2005, continuing on through 12-31, December 31 of 2009, it increases by 1.25 cents the amount of fuel tax that's retained when people apply for a refund for off-road fuel use, meaning they bought tax-paid fuel and the state would withhold an extra 1.25 cent per gallon which would be put into the EPIC Fund. That's in Section 4, page 5. That amounts to...and I will get another handout after lunch. I don't want to hand the second handout till after lunch because we're going to have some...plenty of discussion here before then. Then to Section 12 on page 12, that is some prorate language in there that says if there's a temporary shortfall for the four plants, there is a prorate, Section 12, page 12 on the bill, and also increases the financial...it increases the limit whereby the corn checkoff ceases at \$20 million. It's currently \$15 million. It raises it \$20 million simply because of the increased exposure to liability we have with four plants instead of two. That's also in Section 12. Section 13 on page 14, starting October 1 of 2004 through September 30 of 2010, it increases the checkoff on corn and milo .25 cent per bushel. It is currently .5 cent per bushel dedicated to the EPIC Fund. That's in LB 536 language. That extra .25 cent raises approximately \$2.5 million per year. We produce roughly a billion bushels of corn and sorghum in the state each year that's subject to the checkoff. Going on, Section 14, the bill, beginning the 10th of...or the 1st of October of 2004 through September 30 of 2010, it increases the fuel tax on all gasoline sold in the state of Nebraska by .3 cent a gallon. We chose the LUST Fund as the collecting mechanism here because that collects the tax on every gallon of fuel, gasoline and diesel, that's