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LB 1065

Legislature. I don't want to take a lot of time except I think Ed Schrock gave it pretty plain the way I would look at it. You know, there's nothing wrong with the motoring public or the corn producers being willing to put up a little extra money to get these built, get these plants built. I think the plan they have set out now is probably as equitable as you can get, and I support the amendment for the simple reason I again think it's the right thing to do. Everybody benefits. You know, it's interesting because where I live, you...some people would say, why would you support ethanol when you'll probably never have any in your district? Well, our district, the problem is we don't have irrigated...that much irrigated corn. We don't have an excess supply of water. Those are two elements that it takes to run an ethanol plant. But I feel, on the other hand, even though whether or not we ever have one, the fact that there are ethanol plants that are using corn tends...like anything else, supply and demand tends to raise the price of corn, no matter where you live. So I think, in total, we shouldn't be that objectionable to paying some extra money, or a checkoff, in order to make this plan work. That's the only way that I can see that it can done, and with that I'll turn the rest of my time back to the Chair. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. We're discussing the Landis amendment to the Revenue Committee amendments to LB 1065. Senator Kremer, followed by Senators Burling, Janssen, Landis. Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I guess I'm just going to maybe echo a little bit what some others have said. I was part of the group that met several times over the interim, trying to figure out what we could do to make whole the commitments that we have on the four plants coming on board, that will meet the deadline by June 30. We need \$42 million and I don't think any of us like to raise the checkoff or raise gas tax or anything else. The corn growers said that they would be willing to share it. Historically, we've been funding the EPIC Fund with about 50 percent General Fund, 50 percent checkoff. It's considerably lower than that now, and they felt like they would be glad to do that. At first, I did not like the idea of the .3 cents on motor fuels,