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LB 1065

the .1 cent makes it about \$3.5 million, but yet up here, .5 cent comes to \$4.9 million. In other words, another .5 cent on the corn checkoff would take care of all of these motor vehicle taxes. Is that right?

SENATOR BAKER: That's correct, Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: In other words, a cent and a quarter checkoff on your corn, and we wouldn't have to be worrying or talking about fuel tax or any of this other part. Am I correct on that?

SENATOR BAKER: It wouldn't really...you're correct. It wouldn't take a cent and a quarter even.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Then how come we're trying to put some of it on the motor vehicles? Why don't you just go with that flat little over a cent? Some of the other states do 1 cent and just put it on the corn and be done with it, because that's...they're the ones that benefit from it.

SENATOR BAKER: Well, I tell you, this was...LB 1065 was developed over the course of the fall, many meetings. Corn Growers were included. And it was the consensus that we felt--and I agree, I'm with it--that we needed to share the cost. It's a benefit to the state of Nebraska, increased ethanol production, and the motorists are actually sharing in some of those benefits in the lower price of ethanol-blended fuel. And hence, we came up with the .3 cent a gallon as their part of the contribution.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yeah. Okay. Thank you, Senator Baker. Members of the Legislature, myself, I don't know why we're even discussing about the motor vehicle fuel fee on here, when there's other ways that aren't that tough to fund it. At the present time, other states have some of that checkoff. If you raise the price of corn 10 or 20 cents like you're telling us around here on the floor by using these ethanol programs, another...a cent...or...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.