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FLOOR DEBATE

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we can go out a few years, even if they would come on, without having to change it. But it does mean that there is still a possibility out front, based on previous legislation, that we're going to have to do something. And many of those are under contract, to the point that we have to do something. But I was also told that you...I will not support...there's some in here will not support more than four plants at the present time. There's also very...almost extreme nervousness about even raising this corn checkoff from .5 to 1 cent. I have several amendments drafted, going as high as 1.5 cents. And if I...if we want to fund to full extent up to seven or eight plants, we can do that, even going to 2 cents. In my personal mind, going to 1 cent is not a travesty at all. It's reasonable. I figured out, if you have 1,000 acres of corn, 1,000 acres of corn at 200 bushel to the acre, raising 200,000 bushel of corn at 1 cent is \$2,000. Now that may look high, it may look low to some of you. But it...on a 100,000 bushel even at \$2.50, it's \$500,000 worth of return, gross--it's gross, before you pay your expenses--but at \$500,000, \$2,000 of that goes to market share, market improvement, if you will, ethanol bill. So I'll...it's not that I'm totally enthused about this. I hear what my fellow ag producers are saying, that we shouldn't be standing it all. But I think this form of LB 1065 funded is better than no LB 1065 at all. And I think we're getting to the point in the session that that's the way it needs to be looked at. Now if you see it another way and there's 33 votes to provide cloture and take this through with what you prefer, so be it. My feelings won't be hurt. But I don't see that the votes are there necessarily. And so we need to...I think we need to run this and do it. I handed out the sheet that shows that this will fund the four plants satisfactorily clear through 2012, and have a little bit of leeway besides. This does, as I said, four new plants, the ones that we know were going to be. It doesn't do anything for the two that possibly will be. And we don't know whether is that even more. So it doesn't solve the problem forever, but it does solve it into the foreseeable future. And I think it's not unreasonable to ask corn growers for 1 cent. I know it gives heartburn to some, going from .5 cent to 1 cent. But to me, as a corn producer, it's not unreasonable. And I don't think it's bad to give up 1 cent to have 10 cent return. It's a pretty good return on your money to get 10 cents for 1 cent invested.