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FLOOR DEBATE

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I think it's pretty good investment to get 10 cents back for 1 cent on your investment, in addition to the feed value and the labor and the investment in the communities across the state. I don't think there's another foreseeable industry out there that's spread out across rural Nebraska as it is in the ethanol industry, not one that spreads out investment, labor, market, and by-products in the same breath, so to speak. So I think it's worth the investment, and I ask you to consider that as we work through this, because...I expect a lot of debate. I know you want to share the pain of these financing with the General Fund and others. But I don't think it's in the card at this point. And I would hold out the possibility that if we do get the other plants and things do get improved, perhaps there can be some general fund in the future. I guess I won't be here to see if that will happen, but I think if we do get the other plants and we do have to finance them, that there can be a strong case made at that point. Perhaps there can be some help. So with that, this is AM3554.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schrock, you're recognized to speak, followed Senator Stuthman and Vrtiska.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Byars doesn't like to hear me cry, so I'm not crying. But I want to just state the facts to you. If the Wehrbein amendment is passed, we will be the highest corn checkoff state in the nation. There are other states that check off a penny now, but we will be the highest corn checkoff state in the nation. We will be the only state, and continue to be the only state, that checks off corn for the purpose of ethanol incentives. I don't mind that, I just think there should be a limit. I'd have to also tell you that as we compare Nebraska to the states around us, we are the highest property tax state for the ag producers. We are the only state in the region that taxes farm machinery. Hence, you'll see custom farm operators don't have their machinery in Nebraska. In other words, there's not many combines left in Nebraska, because if you're a custom harvester, you live in Kansas or South Dakota or Oklahoma. Ethanol, I think, is important for the corn producers. But I think it's also important for the motoring public. I think it's