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FLOOR DEBATE

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10 cents or more for gasoline at the pump. To me, it's a fairness issue. If all of our tax incentives and breaks are going to go to the urban areas, but when it comes time for help to the rural areas, let's just pile it on the corn farmer, I don't think that's fair. And Senator Wehrbein, I don't think this amendment is fair. I think the pain should be spread out. If we can't get a gas tax, then let's put some General Fund money into it. But don't just dump it all on the corn producer of this state. And you say, well maybe in the future there will be some General Fund money. I would hope so. Actually, I kind of like Senator Brashear's idea of doing a little bonded indebtedness, and put a little of that money in for economic development and help the ethanol plants out of that. I just think this is way out of line. Do your will. If this amendment gets adopted, I'll not be supporting the bill.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Stuthman, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the body. First of all, I would like to enter into a little bit of a conversation with Senator Wehrbein, if he would answer a few questions, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Wehrbein, would you like to respond?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Senator Wehrbein, as far as the checkoff is concerned--and I'm not totally aware--how is that collected? Is it collected just from Nebraska producers? Is it collected...there's quite a number of bushels that comes out of Iowa to Nebraska. How is that...?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Corn marketed in Nebraska. So Iowa corn coming to Cargill, for example, is checked off.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: And if we as Nebraska producers send corn into Minnesota, to MCP or ADM up there, is that checked off, too, as a producer? Or, since they don't have it, then we don't pay the checkoff?