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FLOOR DEBATE

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Highway Trust Fund. I do not...I cannot support the...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR KREMER: ...Wehrbein amendment. I will support the bill as it is. With the...if we take the \$15 million requirement off, I would support that, and also the proration.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Senator Louden, you're next to speak, followed by Senators Baker, Wehrbein, Kruse, Mines, and Jensen.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. I'm certainly going to support Senator Wehrbein's amendment. I think this is probably the rational way to do business. If this is a viable business, then it should be able to support itself. They not only have by-products; they have the ethanol. They also get their...some...whatever they mix in it to dye the stuff. They're using unleaded gasoline. They'll get a tax break on that. So I think the funding should be adequate. If it can't make it with that type of funding, then there's probably other problems with it. The ethanol program is certainly something can be worked out for the corn growers in areas. One thing you want to remember, you have to irrigate a lot of this corn in order to grow it, so there gets to be a question of how much water you put on to grow how much corn to grow an ethanol product that probably isn't energy-efficient. But nonetheless, we're already started down that railroad track, so I suppose we'll continue with it and ride it out. I think that Senator Wehrbein's amendment is the most logical one that I've seen come down the pike on this situation, so I'm certainly going to support it, and I'm hopefully that it will pass and add to the bill. I can support the bill with Senator Wehrbein's amendment on there. Without his amendment on there, why, I can't go with it, as long as we have a fuel tax to support ethanol in there. I don't think that's a proper way to fund an ethanol program, with the tax from another area, a fuel tax.