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record supporting Senator Wehrbein's amendment to raise it to 1 cent from the .5 cent. And I also have a concern, is that if we get more than four plants, out a few years, we're going to be out of money. We're going to have to do something, maybe both of them. So I'll give my time back to Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator. You have 3 minutes and 50 seconds, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you. And thank you, Senator Hartnett. I urge my colleagues to strongly consider this. And it just came into my mind, some discussion here about what .3 cent gasoline tax is. In agriculture we use a lot of gasoline and diesel fuel. And I would venture to say, off the top of my head, that use...this tax on a typical farm, on the...raising it from .5 cent on the corn produced will not be as big an issue as it would be by having .3 cent on your diesel and your gasoline bill. Consider over-the-road fuel for transportation and things like that. So it isn't going to hit you totally. It doesn't mean you're...because your farm fuel is exempt, but talking about your road fuel that you buy. I think you need to consider this 1 cent. And I know you're going to...some are going to oppose the bill with it on, and I think you're taking a huge risk for our ethanol fund. And I think also that if we delay this a year, which can be done if we run out in September of 2005, remember, if we wait till next year to solve this, you're going to lose nearly a year's production of tax on the corn. It is critical to start this as soon as we can, just like everything else is, like it is to start your retirement fund early, for example. It is critical to get the money coming in from this tax this fall, starting with the October...with the corn crop this fall. And I think it's a reasonable compromise. I know some of you don't look at it as a compromise. I think it is a reasonable compromise, going from .5 cent to 1 cent, 1 cent a bushel, out of \$2.50 corn--let's call it \$2.50 if you don't want to use \$3.00--to get a pretty well 5 to 10 cent return on that penny. And I know it doesn't go down well in principle in some people's mind. It may not be the money; it may be the principle. But it's...these are times...these are difficult times in Nebraska for everyone, and it is certainly in our budget. And this gets us through, and we still have the other