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FLOOR DEBATE

April 5, 2004

LB 1065

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Kremer, you're next to speak.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Madam President and members. Senator Chambers, I always have to follow you, it seems like. And I'm going to agree with something that you said. You said, the ones that benefit should pay. That's why I think we should have some on the gasoline tax also, because I think they benefit also. Senator Kruse, I was going to ask him a couple questions, but he's not here. And I saw in the paper after...he had a bill the other day dealing with the transit system, with the...I think it was the transporting the elderly around. And it was going to increase the gas tax by .1 cent. I saw in the paper that it was going to cost the average motorist--I think they were assuming that the motorist...average motorist was traveling 12,000 miles a year at about 20 miles to the gallon--it was going to cost the average motorist 60 cents a year for .1 cent increase per gallon. Three-tenths of an incentive...or of an increase, amounts to \$1.80 per year. Right now, the corn checkoff is .5 cent that goes toward the EPIC fund. An average farm that raises about 150,000 bushels a year is paying right now \$750 toward the EPIC fund. If we would increase that .25 percent, which the corn producers said that they are willing to pay, we are saying that they will increase it .25 cent, that's another \$375 per year. If we would go with Senator Wehrbein's amendment that would increase it .5 cent, that's another \$750 a year, which brings it up...a whole cent was to \$1,500 a year. Now talk about fair share. The average motorist would increase \$1.80 per year. Now I can't see any comparison in that. And I think those that benefit should be the ones that pay. That's why I think the motorist benefits. You can see the comparison of \$1.80 against \$1,500. The corn producer probably benefits more, and he's going to pay a lot more than what the average motorist is. We've heard many times today about corn being \$3.00 a bushel because of ethanol plants. I think the ethanol plants have contributed toward that. But in 1995, we had corn prices to \$5.00 a bushel. It didn't stay there very long. About two years later, it was back to \$1.50. When the corn was \$5.00 a bushel, we did not have very many ethanol plants. Why was it \$5.00? Ethanol...consumption of corn of the ethanol production, does contribute to that price.