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April 6, 2004 LB 1065

SENATOR RAIKES: Well,...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...I have implied that there would be some interested in really doing that next year.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Well, just one. Thank you, Roger, or Senator Wehrbein. Just one quick question. I think...I do think that one approach that should be investigated is an idea that actually came up in a discussion with Senator Schrock, is that that we would go to a corn checkoff of one-half of 1 percent. That has two advantages. It's a precedent in soybeans. That's now the way the checkoff is done there. And the second thing is that makes the checkoff paid vary directly with the price, so that I think people would have a...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker, followed by Senator Smith, Senator Kremer, Senator Engel.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I commend Senator Wehrbein for trying here, but I'm going to stick with the bill, LB 1065, as is. There's a nexus between three-tenths of a cent a gallon. I think we can demonstrate very clearly from history that the more ethanol we produce in the state the cheaper the ethanol blend is at the pump, which directly benefits the consumer. There's a connection; you just can't deny it. The more supply we have, the lower the price is going to be. We have no transportation costs, import pipeline costs and trucking costs, to speak of on most of this ethanol, just a part of a penny a gallon to get it to the retailers from these plants. We've worked long and hard on LB 1065, the group that I've mentioned, time and again. We've agreed to stick together on this. I think the Revenue Committee has agreed to stick together on this. I believe that's still intact. Senator Wehrbein's plan leaves us \$9.45 million short of funding the four plants out there. I have no idea how somebody is going to go to their banker on these temporary stills thing and say they're going to take care of it. Maybe we will. I don't know