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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 1065

SENATOR BAKER: Members, I want to talk...I agree with what Senator Beutler is saying. We've created a hole here in the four plants that are out there and going, and they can't be happy with what we're doing. And I'm with Senator Beutler. When we are term limited out, and I think he's in a group with me, goes out in two years, we better have our house in order here. So I'm not going to propose anything now on General File, but I am going to work with Senator Beutler and some others, see if we can't fund this gap of \$9.45 million here. I want to make this program whole before we get out of here. We were responsible, a good part of us in this body now were responsible for passing LB 536. We better get our house in order before we leave. I don't know exactly what we're going to do. He mentioned some motor vehicle tax. I don't think I'm going to go along with that, but I do see some places here we can do some work. We might want to take a long hard look at the funding, you know, the mechanism, the Ethanol Board with some dollars that goes back to the fees on the refunds on off-road use of fuel. I'd like to look at that part of it possibly. I just can't, in good conscience, say we've done a good job here on this bill now with a \$9.45 million hole in it. It's just...and that's for the four legitimate plants out there that will be producing, I think, a minimum of 20 million gallons on an annual basis by June 30. What happens to those temporary plants, or whatever they're calling them, I don't have a clue. There's obviously not support to fully fund the four of them right now, the way the bill stands, so to expect to fund anyone else out there is a pipe dream, as far as I can tell. I just was trying to get the four funded, and I'm not going to give up yet. I'm going to vote to advance the bill, of course, to Select File. In the meantime, we have a couple days here to work on this, see if we can't come up with another alternative or two. I'm sure we can, and hopefully get something put together that would get 25 votes and solve the problem to the people we owe to get this thing in whole done now and not put it off on a Legislature that will be totally new in 2009, 2010. I don't think that's a service we want to...a disservice we want to put on them. We just have to do it now. So with that, I will vote to advance the bill as amended here now and see what I can work out with various senators between now and Select File. Thank you,