

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2004 LB 1065

General and Select File here. I see Senator Raikes has an amendment. We'll see what he wants to do with that. But at this time, I'm going to simply listen to the discussion. I guess if you can convince me that this is going to getting us off of ethanol for next session, which I think it might, why then I'd vote for it and we'd proceed and see how things go. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Baker. The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members. I was part of the group with the stakeholders that met and tried to come up with a solution how to fund these plants. And I guess I'm kind of reluctant to accept this amendment, maybe because we already have extended it one year from it originally was, to help make it whole. The corn checkoff is a year longer than what the original bill had in it. And another thing I guess that I'm concerned about is that the partnership with General Funds. You know, it started out about 50-50 partnership and it's down to where the General Funds do not contribute that much. And then when we quit putting the General Fund money into it altogether in '08 and '09, it seems like that would be the area that we should continue to carry on rather than the corn checkoff. And I understand Senator Beutler trying to make it whole now, but I'm sure it's going to have to be revisited the way it stands now. If no other plants came on line of these that have, I...you said open the gate, I think I'd say they climbed over the fence maybe rather than opening the gate. I don't know. But if they come on line...if they do not come on line, we're okay up until 2010, which is quite a ways done the road which we can see what's happening with our revenue sources in Nebraska at that time. But I guess I would rather see the extension on the General Fund money rather than, you know, the extension on the...in the corn checkoff. Since we have already extended it one more year and it was kind of an agreement between all that some would come out of the gas tax, which we was not able to do, and I did support the position right now where the \$1.5 million comes out of the LUST Fund. I'm going to be reluctant to support this because I think we're going to have to revisit it again for sure. Even if just one more plant comes