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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you respond?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes, Senator, I...there are probably others that know better than I. But I...my impression is that this is strictly an advocacy board. They have no refereeing function. They are not regulatory. I don't see them, for example, cautioning about the development of ethanol plants because there won't be enough money available through the Legislature to support the incentives. As far as I know, they've always simply testified as proponents for ethanol incentive bills. Again, which certainly in my notion does make them bad people, that's not what I'm saying. I'm just saying that for us to use money that we could be putting in that EPIC Fund to support an advocacy group for the industry in these kind of financial times makes no sense to me.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. I think you've raised a really good point, and I am going to think about it. I hope, Senator Wehrbein, no matter what happens, if this shouldn't be adopted, I would hope that it would be something that we would look at. It doesn't perhaps...it maybe not...does not need to be funded in the way that we're funding it. So, Senator Raikes, thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Raikes, on your amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Again, to continue with the response a little bit to some of the points I've heard, there was a performance audit done on the Ethanol Board here a few years ago. I think at that time you called them program evaluation and reviews. But...and I did read that report and, again, this is just for your information. My understanding of the functions of the board, to a large extent, they bought memberships in national ethanol organizations and then the various employees went to the meetings of those organizations when they had an annual meeting or scheduled regular meeting in some part. So that was a good part of what they did. Again, I'm not in any way arguing that these folks are bad people. That's not the point and, in fact, I think some of them have become nationally known in the ethanol industry,