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FLOOR DEBATE

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agricultural commitment to these projects that ought to be weighted a little more on the public side. I'd be in opposition to it, in the last hour here once again increasing the agricultural sector's commitment to this and...because we have, in agriculture, provided millions of dollars over the years to build these plants. And I'd ask that we continue to have some public side to these plant incentives.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I also rise in opposition to this amendment as I voted against it the first time around. If this was a guarantee that would make the EPIC Fund program whole, that would be a different situation, but it doesn't. We already have been contacted by Sutherland's plant. They anticipate being on line June 1. We're going to come back. We're working on this and I echo Senator Connealy's comments. When we put LB 1065 together, that consensus considered that a balance. We changed that. We took \$3.5 million roughly out of it, substituted a million...of the fuel tax, substituted \$1.5 million to replace part of that and changed the whole balance. And I am not willing at this time, when we don't have to do this, to transfer the burden over to the corn growers at 7.5, \$7.3 million, whatever the figure is, over \$7 million the last year as a corn checkoff. There's too many things unknown out there at this point in time. We're carried out to 2009. I encourage the body to remain where we are, status quo, with LB 1065 as it advanced to Select File. We need to get this bill moved on to Final Reading. It is not an option not to pass this bill. It's obviously a designated major priority bill. That's not an option. We have to get this thing funded and it does provide the funding out through 2009. So I encourage the body to not vote for Senator Beutler's amendment this time. And I pledge that we'll come back. There's obviously going to be another ethanol discussion next session dealing with commodity boards, the ethanol board and so on. Let's do it at that time. We have a long day ahead of us. I encourage the body to reject Senator Beutler's amendment at this time and go on with our work. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Bourne.