

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

February 16, 2005 LB 150

small business and agriculture. And that's why I've introduced bills to do that. And we'll see when we get a package...the Revenue Committee has not presented a package yet to the floor, and hopefully will be part of that. Traditionally, we've had a cooperative agreement between agriculture and business, to be part of paying our own way. And I think you're right, that we're moving toward agriculture carrying too much of the burden, especially in the ethanol industry.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Well, I'm...if I could have my time back, Chair, I'd just like to respond. I think it's time that we become partners. I think it's time the business community becomes partners. Because agriculture is important to the business community of this state. And I...it just bothers me a little bit that everybody says, oh, agriculture, you don't pay your own way. And we do pay for our own tax incentives. And yet, for business tax incentives, the General Fund pays for it. And so I think that's an issue I would like to see discussed when that package comes to the floor. I don't mind paying my fair share. I've always...I've been supportive of the corn checkoff for ethanol incentives. But I think enough is enough. And that's the reason I bring that issue in front of the body this morning. And so those of you who are rural senators, sometimes we get called "aggies." I wear that label pretty proud. I'm an aggie. We need to watch this. We need to take care of our own constituency. We need to take care of agriculture in this state. And you know, I know we've got a heavy tax burden, and so we've got to be careful what else we lay on the rural communities and the agriculture producers of this state. And I think we need to be careful here. I'm willing to pay the beef checkoff. It's a continuation of a program. I have a little concern about the refund, and I have some concern about, maybe we're contributing to a private monopoly here, or a corporation, or whatever you want to call it, when maybe it should be a state agency like our other checkoff programs. And so we'll be watching this, and maybe going to offer some amendments on Select File. And I want to work with Senator Kremer and his committee staff to accomplish this.

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.