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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 90

gets built, we're going to fund it. So, to some extent, this amendment is just saying where that money is going to come from. And with that, then you have to look at the specifics of it. It's another eighth cent of corn checkoff, and then it's more funds from the general public. And I think that's fine, so I'm open to that. I would rather have a new program. I actually introduced a bill earlier in the year to do that, to expand. I believe that this is our obligation. How you fund it is up to us, or up to future Legislatures, if that good outcome comes about. If those plants get built and we have that obligation, I don't think it's bad for the state. I don't think it's terrible or a burden. I think it's great, because these plants are going to be using Nebraska products, they're going to be using...you know, developing Nebraska jobs, they're going to be producing a clean fuel for the country. So it's a great deal. It is an obligation out there that we have to worry about, to some extent. But it's also a huge benefit if they come on board. You have to pay for good work sometimes. And if this is what the body wants to do and to say we're going to have an automatic indicator, this is how you're going to pay for it, then I'll support it. I don't know. We've negotiated with the Governor and with others on a certain amount of money coming out of General Fund now, on an ongoing basis, to get us over this first hurdle, which is of this year. We have a hurdle in the EPIC Fund to...that we're going to be underfunded if we don't do something with the bill right now. I don't want to burden the bill. I want to make sure that we have that hurdle covered. But it's my intention, and I think it ought to be all our intentions, to pay our bills, and to pay for any plants that come on board and need the resources that we promised in LB 536. I know it wasn't unanimous when that passed. But it is an obligation of the state, and we ought to live up to it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Further discussion? Senator Stuhr, followed by Senators Cunningham, Fischer, Wehrbein, and Mines. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'm going to oppose the amendment, because we worked many hours on trying to come to a consensus in what we proposed to all of you in LB 90. I believe that the one-eighth cent