

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

May 17, 2005

LB 90

checkoff that we proposed in LB 90 is probably more than what many of us were happy to do at the time. But we were willing to do our part. If you look at one of the handouts that we had recently, it indicates that corn producers will be paying, beginning in '05-06, with the present one-eighth of a cent checkoff, \$8.4 million; \$8.7 million in '06 and '07; '07 and '08, about \$8.7 million; and continuing out into '09 and '10. And total, what we have proposed in LB 90, was the checkoff from corn producers would generate over \$64 million. And I am not willing for corn producers at this time to increase that checkoff. We also had some other additions. I do believe that we are looking at the program to have a shortfall in LB...in '10 and '11, and...well, possibly in '09 and '10. But that is about \$889,000. And of course, if we have an increase in our corn production, we probably would not even see any additional money needed at that time. I know it would be great to get more General Fund increase. But I am sticking with the proposal that we originally had. And that is my feeling. So with that, I will turn the rest of my time back over to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. On with discussion of the Bourne amendment, Senator Cunningham, followed by Senator Fischer and others.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. Well, Senator Bourne, normally I would love to be supporting you on an amendment like this. And you're looking kind of disgusted right there. (Laugh) I would tell you, I very much would like to support you. Normally, I'm 100 percent in favor of what you're doing. And I fully believe we need to get LB 536 funded, and we need funding for new plants, just as Senator Connealy talked about. But Senator Stuhr pretty much reflected my thoughts. And as you sat around the room negotiating, you know, a few weeks ago, we didn't have that \$17.5 million for ethanol, we didn't have that General Fund money at all. And the checkoff was a very major bone of contention. And we came to an agreement. It was not an easy agreement. And so I regret this. I very much regret not being able to vote for this. But I need to go on record as to why I can't vote for it. Once you've given your word on something and made a commitment, it's very