

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

March 22, 2006 LB 968

in short supply. Consequently, the price of ethanol is higher than that of regular.

SENATOR CONNEALY: I would agree, except for the increasing cost of production. I think that the ethanol manufacturers are making a lot of money right now. I think that the price of ethanol has gone up because of demand, not necessarily because of the cost of production.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, what they were talking about was these petroleum producers who are adding ethanol to their product. It's making their product with ethanol higher. But here's what I want to ask you. Precisely who will be the beneficiary of this \$10 million?

SENATOR CONNEALY: This \$10 million, \$5 million each year for the next two years,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR CONNEALY: ...goes into the EPIC Fund. The EPIC Fund is four to five ethanol plants that qualified under LB 520...LB 536 that was passed about four years ago, that was an incentive package for the production of ethanol.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This is a subsidy, isn't it, the \$10 million?

SENATOR CONNEALY: It's an incentive to build plants, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That means you're giving people something that they did not earn through their labor. Isn't that true?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's what subsidy is.

SENATOR CONNEALY: It is a subsidy.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It's like a windfall.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Well, a windfall would probably be more on