

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

March 22, 2006 LB 968

As a matter of fact, Senator Baker will tell you there are a couple of numbers on here that we already have an indication probably won't be there. However, what's pretty clear here is that we have a relatively large coming downside risk and you have to get every one of these plants to fail before you get into this spot, and that I think is a pretty risky, bad assumption to make. I think it's fair to say they're not going to all come on line, but I think the reverse is also equal to it, and that is that none of them is going to come on line. Ten million bucks now, in this time when we have money, against a \$90 million debt, as opposed to trying to get that money three years out of here when we have a downturn in the economy and yet we still have an obligation to come up with. Then that \$10 million will push out any other opportunity we have. Right now, we're probably pushing out rainy day fund or another A bill, but we're making way for this money now. Three years from now, when we're strapped for every dollar of cash, because there's a downturn cycle, and we also get hit with this money, we'll be really hard-pressed to come up with it now. What you do is you make sure you get it, like you get a mortgage, you pay ahead on your mortgage in the good times whenever you can. It cuts down the interest. It cuts down the risk. That's the plan here. There is a second way of paying this amount of money, and we could turn to the corn checkoff. However, as you know, on this body, replaying old fights, the corn checkoff people resist that. They claim that this is a social and state obligation; and a number of us claim, no, it's a...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...farmer obligation, they ought to pay for it. And in the past what we've done is some from you, some from us. That's what we've normally done. I'll tell you, from my perspective, leaving the Legislature and a Legislature that's coming in, I think it's likely to say that we will be able to say in the next round, you know what, we gave the last time; we put money up last time. So if you don't want to do this, you don't have to do this. It's not as if this...that we're in red ink right now. However, we're in red ink at the next...at the end of this biennium. We're at the end...in 2007, we're 7 million bucks in debt under the EPIC Fund, at the point at