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FLOOR DEBATE

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was a couple little...maybe even a feedlot that was going to make ethanol and use the by-product for the cattle and it was going to be a small operation, so he wanted those to be able to qualify. Well, then what happened in 2004, we could see that it was going to be misunderstood. We introduced some legislation that clarified that, that said in order to qualify that you had to do several different things to qualify. That bill did not get...it did not get on the agenda because we just ran out of time. The next year we tried it again and at that time the Attorney General came back and said, sorry, the way the bill is written, the intention was that anybody that makes that 100,000 gallons or 83,000 (sic) gallons in a month qualifies. So then we had six plants go out there and set up a portable still and make 83 gallons, supposedly. That plant was supposed to be part of the final...the final product of the whole structure of the plant. We still think it's questionable whether it will be or not, but the Attorney General said, sorry, it's too late. Now, some of these six, they had to be on board by July 1, '04, so the clock is ticking. Every year that they're late, they don't get incentives for those years because it ends in, I think, 2006 or '07, one or the other so...at that time. So every time that we wait a year, there's going to be less money, but we are obligated to do that. Right now, I think there's probably been 10 to 12 new plants that have broken ground, said we're going to build plants of 100 million gallons, and some less than that, that are going to get no EPIC Funds, no incentives from the state whatsoever. Since the time that the bill...that the first EPIC Fund was initiated, there have been some federal incentives, LB 775 incentives. There's many incentives out there. And like Senator Chambers says, right at this time we do not need it, and we wish that we could back up and make it a little clearer the ones that qualified, but it's too late now. Senator Connealy introduced a bill that would take \$15 million for, I think, six years in order to make sure that we had enough money to take care of our obligations. This is a compromise to come back to \$5 million for two years to make sure that we can at least meet our obligations to the one or two plants. I guess Lexington is one of those six now, that's up and going. The others really haven't even started yet. We don't know if they will or not. So I think we're a little premature to try to pay enough for all of them for that six years. But if we still have