

groups that do exist either now or in the future, it is not clear to me, I guess, what the rationale in the original bill, and certainly what the rationale for 66-820 is under the current situation. It would appear to me that they could, in fact, from the monies that accrue to it from the reduction in the return of off-highway use gas tax from those users, fund whatever memberships that they wish to fund without an additional appropriation. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker, members, I oppose this amendment at this point. As much as I...continuing on with one of my conversations with Senator Coordsen, so everyone is clear, it is money that is highway gas tax refund used for off-road purposes is where the money originates in the first place. If it is not, and it comes back into the Highway Trust Fund, if it is not taken in forms of credit, this 3/4 cent, and now 1 1/4 cent potentially after July 1st, will simply be money that will not be refunded to nonhighway tax users, fund users, and so it would then be less money to revert to the Highway Trust Fund, if that was the case. But its origination comes from money that is returned to farmers and contractors and other nonhighway users. I oppose this amendment simply because I, since it does change it to "may", I think that should be adequate at this time. The money that's being spent now is really...is \$12,000, is what's being used for that. I do not know the original understanding as to why it went to 30. If there was more than one fuels or what, I don't know, but it is only being used at the \$12,000 level. One of the issues, if you are watching the fuel prices right at this point, is a real source of frustration, one of the reasons I think that we need to continue this promotional effort on the part of the ethanol authority is the fact that this, if you watch fuel prices, unleaded gasoline with ethanol right now is 2 cents higher. The purchase price of that, it's my understanding, varies from 4/10ths to 6/10ths, 4/10ths to 6/10ths of a cent of a gallon more in its original cost, but it is being retailed, and I am not going to blame the retailers at this point, it may be at the wholesale level, are actually charging 2 cents more. So, obviously, we need some more promotional effort to understand the real value of ethanol and why it is being marked up in many cases, perhaps not all, above the true cost of its procurement. I don't where the issue is. I am not accusing anybody at this point, but suffice it to say that at the pump it is 2 cents more and it shouldn't