

happy out there. This is, let me restate the amendment that gives a slightly broader option to Class VIs, that is all it does. I think that is important to again move this momentum forward. But I rise mostly not only to say I hope you'll reconsider on this and move us down the road so that we can all vote on this bill, but I think if I were going to give an award to a chairman that has performed in a remarkable fashion, and I think will continue to do so, I've said this before but I think Senator Withem has done a good job. I think he's fought off the forces from both sides, both who have not been particularly flexible, both of whom have their own agendas and are not particularly receptive to the changes that I think even they know ultimately we're all going to have to deal with. So I don't expect Senator Withem to change his mind on this amendment because I think he feels honor bound to stick where he was on this, and I respect that. But I also respect the way he's handled this process. And I hope that you can see your way clear to vote to support this reconsideration and then add the amendment. I think we will have taken a major step forward toward crafting a bill that assures the momentum, continues what the committee has started, and that we can get about the business of looking at some of these other issues that are, frankly, a lot more important. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, the Sco...I gave a...the first time the Scofield amendment was up I gave a complete critique of the problems that the committee saw in opening up the Class VI option, that was meant to apply to Senator Scofield's amendment, Senator Dierks' amendment and to Senator Coordsen's amendment. I was sorry Senator Coordsen withdrew his because I had a whole spiel prepared, talking about Senator Scofield grabbing the compromise, shaking it up a little bit with her amendment, Senator Dierks kicking it in the shins and giving it a bloody nose, and Senator Coordsen reaching in and ripping the very heart of the compromise out. But, unfortunately, I wasn't able to give that speech, and I'm sure you would have enjoyed it had you heard it. The Scofield amendment does the least violation to the Class VI compromise that is in the bill, of anything you've heard today. It is a fragile compromise, that is another instruction I received from the lobby, to use the word fragile compromise in this debate. It is, it's a very fragile compromise on this Class VI issue. It is incredibly emotional in this state regarding the Class VI