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FLOOR DEBATE

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serious about progressing with joining. Michigan is introducing the legislation in this session. North Dakota has introduced it and it is in the house Transportation Committee and the committee Chair is a cosponsor of the bill. Indiana was the first state to adopt it, Minnesota was the second, Missouri was the third. Those all three occurred last year. They will have a meeting in August regarding this, this effort, and I'd also like to mention, if I could, that since our first debate on the floor that I've been contacted by at least one group that I've not heard from before on this particular issue and they expressed some interest in possibly an amendment to the bill which would allow some private donations to a fund to help finance our membership, and this particular group mentioned the figure of \$5,000, which isn't insignificant. So if the body sees fit to advance this bill and we do go to Select File, it would be my...my hope that we could, number one, gather more information about what these other states are doing and, number two, I would be willing to work on an amendment which would facilitate the use of private money to help pay the membership if such money would...would be there or would be offered. So that...those are the two things I wanted to for sure mention to the body. Now, Mr. President, that's maybe more than an update on the status of the bill, but that's where we're at. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. We're discussing the advancement of LB 244 to E & R Initial. On that discussion, Senator Schimek, Hilgert, and Wehrbein. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the advancement of LB 244. I've had the opportunity to listen to the progress of this idea over the last three or four years at the Midwest Legislative Conference, and I am...I'm fairly convinced and fairly positive that...that all the states ultimately will join this compact, all of them in the Midwest. And you'll notice there's even one who doesn't belong to the Midwest Legislative Conference, and that's Missouri, and they have already joined also. But I do have a couple of questions that I'd like to just ask Senator Bromm to make certain that I...that I heard him when he was making an explanation earlier, if I might.