

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please, followed by Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, Senator Haberman suggested I should influence other legislatures to join this compact so that we get, as he called it, five members. I want to suggest this. We do have five members and I've tried to explain that to Senator Haberman and I guess since I'm not able to explain to Senator Haberman that we do have five compact members, far be it from me to be able to explain to an adjoining legislature why they should join the compact. Secondly, I do think, and I appreciate Senator Coordsen's remarks and Senator Scofield's remarks, I do believe we've made substantial progress in a couple of years. I guess that I would have to say this, you know most of us realize that we nudge a little here and nudge a little there and probably do not do as much good as we like to think we do from time to time and we try to influence public thinking and public actions in statutes, a little here, a little there for the benefit of the general public. It has been 18 years since this body enacted the first ethanol fuel legislation and only yesterday the Ethanol Authority told me to go fly a kite, I didn't know what I was talking about. Most of them have been on board a couple of years. Well that's the way the system works, and I accept it. I think that we made some progress. We have a long, long way to go, a long way to go. The industry is taking another look at it primarily because we are no longer the only and the major supplier of grain, but we are going to become the supplier of last resort unless we clean up our production. Other countries are coming into the area and are moving very aggressively. I hope that Wyoming will become a financial member of the compact, but I want to emphasize again that in fairness and in an attempt to achieve equity, the members did agree that annual appropriations for all states should be based upon productivity. With Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska assuming equal responsibility because we produce more than one billion bushels of grain each annually, but the other states would be assessed on a percentage of that productivity of the three major states, which places Wyoming at a very modest annual expense and we think it's fair. We may have to make some adjustments and I accept Senator Haberman's gracious offer of perhaps amending the compact language to require only four or less states. I think it's important that the three states who are working together today continue to work together. I think we've made some progress, we have not made as much as I would have like to have made, but we've made some. We have a good