

Haberman and Senator Moore.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I'd like to ask Senator Baack a question, if he would, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, would you respond, please.

SENATOR ELMER: Senator, can you explain how these funds will work as far as acquiring a plant, as far as updating the plant, things like that for the body, please, or for the record.

SENATOR BAACK: I will attempt to, yes. These funds cannot be used to acquire the plant, they cannot be used by another entity to acquire an ethanol plant, they cannot be used for that. There is acquisition language in the ethanol authority, but that acquisition language only applies to the ethanol authority themselves. If they decided to purchase a plant or something, to keep it available, or something for bids, they could do that. But someone else coming in to purchase a plant or something cannot use these dollars for the purchase. What these dollars could be used for, it could be used for expansion or it can be used for...

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, excuse me. (Gavel.) Please, let's hold it down, we're having trouble hearing. Thank you.

SENATOR BAACK: Thank you, Mr. President. The monies can be used for either expansion or for production or for modernization of the plant. Those are what those funds can be used for. They cannot be used for acquisition.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Okay, so if you actually...you'd have to have the money to pay down to buy the plant from the finance company, you couldn't use the ethanol funds then for that. Is that right?

SENATOR BAACK: That is correct.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Okay, thank you. I think it's only right that we let the ethanol board have these funds. You know, these funds are their funds, and I think all we're doing is just putting some trust in the ethanol board. We're not giving them the whole amount, like we tried to do last time. But I think it's probably a very good compromise, and I would support the 10 million. Thank you.