

mistake on our part. I would say at this time that I do not think, Senator Warner, that this is going to any way impede the Ethanol Authority. If past experience that I have observed is any indication, it will probably not even slow them down. But to the extent that it puts them on notice, and I guess more than that, to the extent that it records that this body is concerned about how taxpayer dollars are spent, I think it is a good thing. It is unfortunate, of course, that we can watch the expenditure of \$18 million easier than we can hundreds of millions, but it is nonetheless important...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...that we do watch these expenditures. When we passed this bill, Senator Warner, myself and others were adamant in our...in our promise that we would watch the expenditure very carefully. I have been one of those who has been very pro-ethanol, but I want to tell you that we have all seen tens of millions of dollars that were not invested wisely by government entities in the development of ethanol and, therefore, to whatever extent that it has one additional word of caution, I will support the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, please. Oh, Senator Haberman, excuse me, you were ahead of Senator Wehrbein, sorry.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to support Senator Warner's amendment. Someone made the remark that we must have faith in the authorities like we do in all of the authorities, but I would like to bring to the attention of this body that none of the other authorities or checkoff boards have \$18 million sitting there to be plucked by someone, sometime. It has been said that the money has not been squandered. Well, that doesn't mean that it can't be squandered and \$18 million is a lot of money. So I would ask this body to support Senator Warner's amendment. We're not asking the board to do anything we wouldn't ask anyone else under the Research and Development Authority or any other authority that gives grants of money. They should meet certain criteria and I think it is a prerogative of this body to oversee these funds and I ask for your support: Thank you, Mr. President.

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