

competitive with those of other states and localities. The amount of money in this fund is not enough to make it competitive between states and I don't think we want competition between localities within this state. If you're talking about other states, there's not enough money for that purpose and we're aiming at small operations anyway. We don't want competition between localities. We don't want businesses to be bringing pressure to bear on localities in a way that will create competition. What I think the purpose of this bill should be, if you all decide to pass it as I think you will, is to target this money for some of the smaller operations. And I'd like to mention to Senator Maurstad because he and I were talking yesterday, I had a chance to look at language that is still in Senator Engel's amendment and, Senator Maurstad, the word "supplement" does appear on page 2 in line 3. to supplement existing economic development programs. So that which you said yesterday was one of the purposes of this money is to supplement and not be a freestanding alone program, you were correct and accurate in what you said. I just couldn't find that word yesterday and be sure that it was still a part of the bill, but I wanted to let you know that I did find it and what you said was accurate. But those of you who have a copy of the amendment, if you have any questions about it, I'm prepared to answer them. And I was trying...oh, I guess you have it now. I'm going to read it because I didn't even have a copy. This is the only language that would be in that first finding. To provide a degree of flexibility in achieving the purposes of the programs and activities described in Section 81-1201.09, the Selective Enhancement for Economic Development Fund is hereby created. It carries the idea of flexibility and it creates, it announces the creation of the fund, and to my way of thinking, those are the two important elements that are contained in the finding. So if you agree with this, you'll support the amendment. If you have questions about it or arguments against what I am attempting to do, I hope you will express them so I can attempt to meet any arguments and I will answer any questions.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Warner would like to announce that there are 38 eighth graders and their teacher from Lincoln Christian School. They are in the north balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome. And Senator Dierks would like to announce that there are 20 guests here from Dijon, France, representing the French Ministry of Agriculture and the French agricultural delegation.