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SENATOR CUDABACK: Continue discussion. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I haven't been very involved in this conversation this morning and, in fact, I've missed part of it. But, Senator Chambers, to me, Midwestern would mirror the geographic area that the Midwestern Legislative Conference is, and that is composed of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio. I may have left out one. There are 11 Midwestern states. To me, that's Midwestern. That's not, I don't think, what probably Senator Burling has in mind here. I think your term "contiguous" is better than "nearby," but you know when we do...when we...when the Board of Regents looks at tuition rates and salaries and all those kinds of things at other colleges and universities, as you know, they have a peer group and they pick that peer group based on certain characteristics. I would think that that would be better in this case than either the term "Midwestern" or "nearby"; that it would have some like characteristics such as population size, that has a great deal to do with taxation policies; such as, perhaps, the amount of economic...what do I want to say, wealth in the state, perhaps the kind of businesses and the strength of the business community in the state. I mean there's so many things that you could base peer group on, but I think "peer group" gets closer to it than anything else and that maybe should be up to this council to decide who would be in that peer group. Just a suggestion. But "Midwestern" means different things to different people. If I think about the middle of the country and think about Nebraska, I think about the Great Plains area, which would be North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, down even into Texas. I think the Great Plains go down into there. But I don't think we have that much in common with Texas, for instance. So I think establishing some kind of a peer group would be the best way to handle this, for what it's worth. If you'd like the rest of my time, I would be happy to give it to you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Chambers.