

have been working with on this particular issue. And so while we will discuss 1016 in its present level today or in its present form, I would like the body to note that the compromises that are...the compromise that is being discussed at this point is going to be significantly different than what the bill is at this particular point. This is certainly a major policy change or shift in the direction of both the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development and I think that because of that shift or that policy decision or change the Governor and his Director, Rod Bates of the Department of Economic Development, have indicated grave concerns over this decision. We have been working with them through the past two or three weeks to come up with something that would be acceptable and, as I said, I believe we are very close to reaching a compromise. However, I would like to advance LB 1016 so that I can use this as a vehicle to implement that compromise. With that aside, I would like to reference to the committee amendments by saying that we had a bill introduced by Senator Sieck that dealt with organic growers and also developing some standards for organic growers and we took that bill and its contents, or most of its contents, and amended that bill, LB 986, into LB 1016 because it worked in with the policy that we are discussing and alternative crops and, of course, organic growers or producers are a certain part of that alternative cropping ideas. So that bill has been amended into this as a committee amendment. We also struck some language that dealt with providing some goals or mission for the department in regards to the existence of owner operated mid-sized ag units. It was rather ambiguous language and certainly perpetrated some thoughts of Initiative 300 that maybe we did not wish to tie into this issue so the committee struck that language. And we also struck some language dealing with a program or the establishing of a program to assist in interstate, intrastate and foreign marketing. We felt as a committee that we did not want to tread on the programs and the initiatives that our checkoff programs are now undertaking and so we decided to strike that language as well. So, with that, Mr. President, I would move for the advance...or the adoption of the committee amendments at this time.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: I will speak on the bill.