

in essence what you have is a very simple ministerial task in granting an application...a review of an application and making of a grant. And the Governor's Office told us that the Policy Research Office, in their view, had the most experience with giving grants historically and that this seemed appropriate to them.

SENATOR WESELY: And why did both parties not want the Energy Office to be handling this?

SENATOR LANDIS: I think over time there has been some concern about the advocacy nature of the department.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. Well, my... I will support the amendment, but my concern is the slow erosion of the Energy Office, and indeed that can have an impact on energy policy in this state. Ever since Governor Orr has come in, she's had that directorship under both the Policy Research Office and the Energy Office, and in my estimation we've got to be concerned about what is happening there without any legislative oversight. In addition, the whole Energy Resource Fund has been under the Energy Office in the past, with some monies allocated to the Revenue Department to implement some energy policy. And I think we are again strained from focused government. If you start spreading energy funds around, instead of just over in the Energy Office, I wonder where we are going to end up. And they do provide grants through the Energy Office in this area. So if it is grant experience, they have it as much as Policy Research. So I don't think this is particularly the right way to go, but it is the late hour and I don't have any better solution at this point. But I do raise those questions and alert you to my concerns.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion on the amendment? Senator Landis, anything further? Seeing nothing further, those in favor of the adoption of the amendment please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Landis's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore. Senator Hall.