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wished I could support this. I really do. It was there for the asking yesterday, but that was yesterday and today is today. I'll give the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to follow up on some of Senator Beutler's comments and, unfortunately, when we're in this position, discussing relative merits of programs is almost past the time. As I said earlier, when the Appropriations Committee puts together a package it is...it's like a puzzle and if you take a piece out or you try to put a piece in it all comes apart. And I think that we are going to have to continue to make hard decisions. If you think that this is hard, we're going to still continue to have to make hard decisions and we're going to have to examine not just the things that are being examined here but all parts of our government. Everybody's new programs, and this is a relatively new program and it has done...it has done some things quite well, but then the other day we had a proposal for a program that I spoke against, spoke against because there wasn't...it wasn't supposed to cost us any money, but the whole point of the program was to pull together rural development issues. Well, then obviously there's not coordination that's going on. And so, you know, the...if we need to have programs that are about pulling things together and they are reliant on state money and they're supposed to be community-based programs, is that really the best way to go about it? I mean, that's something that I've thought a lot about some of the commissions that we have, if that...if those commissions are most effective within state government or most effective outside of state government. Those are the kinds of decisions that we're going to be facing and if we...if we think that we can avoid the hard decisions, they're just going to keep getting harder. And if we had made some hard decisions to not start programs like this, like this program which was started seven years ago in the good times, thinking at a time when we thought we could do things, then we wouldn't have to be saying to somebody that they...that their job is at risk, if we had evaluated at that point in time whether the...some of the agencies that were already out there could do the pulling together or whether some of these other