

would want to bear in terms of the cost benefit of the projects involved. And so it is a tightrope I walk and it's a difficult one to do but I try constantly to make the argument, you know, what is a good and what is not a good tax incentive and what is a fair and not a fair incentive to provide. And one of the things I find interesting is that on this bill there is a fiscal note, as I talked before about fiscal notes. Trying to make estimates on costs of bills and projects under the amendment I had, we're somehow able under 335 to have an estimate of the fiscal impact on this legislation. I'm not sure why we can do it for a fiscal note for this bill and we can't individually try and deal with this matter into the future in making some estimates on the cost of these proposals. I think ultimately a final couple of points. The key problem with the economic development strategy of the state so far is that we're too tied into the concept of tax incentives and tax incentives are the solution. There are good and there are bad tax incentives and it seems to me that we need to understand a more balanced economic development program as what's called for. We need a much broader based economic development program that we now have in place. We are putting too many eggs in one basket and those eggs are costing us too much money. That is my estimate of the situation. And, in addition, LB 775, with such large incentives, primarily aimed toward urban areas, makes it difficult for me not to support Senator Korshoj and his bill. If we're concerned about equity and fairness across the state in trying to recognize the small businessman as well as the bigger successful businesses, I think in that regard I would support the increase in the benefits under this bill. But, truthfully, the other thing that we ought to be doing is reducing the benefits and targeting the benefits under LB 775. That would bring a greater equity still than what Senator Korshoj and Senator Rogers are trying to do. Again, it seems to me that, yes, the attitude has improved around the state, as Senator Warner talked about, but in large part because around the state, around the states around us and across the country...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...good times have come and improvements have been there whether there's a tax bill like 775 or not. Attitudes are improved because the economy has improved but it's not because 775 has necessarily improved the economy, it's just good times have come and we feel better about things and that's wonderful. But we also have to change that attitude, improved