

Senator Bernard-Stevens is trying to tell you...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: You should just let them loose and do their thing and I say that there are better ways to use that money, better places to use that money, better experiences that we've had with other offices and we ought not to allow this to continue. You're going to see problems here if you adopt this amendment and I suggest you vote against it, recognizing there's a history involved here, a precedent involved here and better ideas that we could pursue on Select File. If we can defeat this amendment, maybe those other better ideas can be compromised and work together and we can offer them again on Select File, but defeat this amendment or you'll have no opportunity to move forward in a more constructive fashion than is being offered right now.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Baack, please, followed by Senator Scofield.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. President and colleagues, I also urge you to defeat this amendment. We have had a pretty long debate on this and we've had some good debate. Senator Wesely brings up some excellent points about some of the previous problems that are inherent in the Department of Economic Development and we've got a bill that we may get to this year, that talks about making some changes in the Department of Economic Development, but it still does not address what they're exactly going to do in rural economic development. In fact, in 639 the thing that economic development is requesting, we're giving them more flexibility and we're opening some things up to give them a little more flexibility. I think there needs to be some direction in there. That's why I'm going to offer an amendment to 639 that puts some more direction into rural economic development. I don't think that DED has done a very good job in rural economic development. Maybe that will change. I hope it does because the rural areas of this state need those kind of changes and need the kind of things the Department of Economic Development could offer. I started getting my little...I know Senator Scofield talked about getting her DED generated calls. I started getting mine this morning. Takes a little longer for the phone lines to get out maybe in my area, I don't know what it is, but I started getting mine this morning and it's really interesting to talk to them because they have no understanding