

offer the amendment with the idea of saying if we're going to spend the 235,000, if we're going to have four sites out there, we have a natural environment to place them to get the biggest bounce for the buck, and would offer the identification of those four sites as being the sites that would make the most sense and probably the most economically efficient.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Moore. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I would commend Senator Conway for bringing this amendment forward and rise in support of it. It's an attempt to compromise between some of us that were concerned about the regional field offices and oppose them completely, and actually still would like not to see that as part of the bill. And then the other side which we'd like to see the four regional offices. In an attempt to compromise, Senator Conway is saying well at least let's not duplicate existing delivery systems of economic development assistance around the state. The Department of Economic Development has formed a one stop shop in their office to try and help businesses to know where they can go, one place, the State Office Building, and there be directed to where they need to go for resources that they might have need of. Well, it's the same sort of concept that Senator Conway is proposing here on a regional basis. Rather than having...going to Beatrice or Peru, if you're in the southeast, or going to Wayne or Norfolk or again around the state, you'd have one place where you can go to that would have not only the NBDC office, which would provide assistance, but the DED office as well. That's the way to combine forces to get a critical mass of expertise, to do the job more efficiently and effectively than what is being proposed under the original amendment that was adopted. It makes absolutely no sense to me why we can't agree to cooperate on this issue. Other than having two elements out there, in some cases doing battle and running in different directions, this is one way to bring both the NBDC offices and the DED together to work together cooperatively on this important function. Economic development is difficult and quite a challenge. And to continue to think that we can run around and have different people functioning without coordinating together is a serious mistake. So I really think Senator Conway is trying to reach a compromise here. I hope you can support this compromise. DED will get their regional offices and we will get the efficiency and effectiveness we need by combining those offices with the