

areas and in rural economic development, where I don't think they have done a very good job. But the body made the decision a couple of weeks ago to say that now we are going to open four more field offices. We are going to give them some more money to do that. We are going to put them out in the rural areas trying to get them to do some things in rural economic development. I think there were better ways of using that money, but the body has made that decision. I am willing to go along with that decision. I think if they are going to do those kind of things, we also need to provide the framework for them to do it in, and I think that 639 moves towards that framework. It does say that we are not going to mandate the different divisions within the Department of Economic Development anymore. They are going to be permitted to have certain divisions within the Department of Economic Development. They are not going to be mandated, which I think is a good move. I think they need to have some flexibility to do the kinds of things that they want to do. I have had a number of discussions with the Governor and she feels that she can do some things with the department if there is some flexibility allowed there, and I think that we need to do that. It is kind of ironic to get up, you know, two weeks ago and bash the department, say they are not doing the right things and then turn right around and give them the flexibility, but I think it can be fairly consistent because we gave them the money. We have done that now. That is in place. We are going to add those field offices. Now we need to provide the framework for them to properly use those field offices. I think I mentioned in the first round on 639, on General File, that we are going to be watching them very, very closely, and it is not going to be on a partisan basis, because I am going to be watching them just as closely as Senator Wesely is because I, and I have had a number of discussions with Roger Christianson saying, okay, we will give you this, and we will work with you on this, but you had better perform after this. You had better hire the kinds of people who can deal with rural economic development, not the same kinds of people that you have had in the past that only want to live in the population centers and don't understand what it is like to live in the small town of Nebraska, don't understand what it is like to be in a very small rural area, and what kind of economic development they are screaming for out there. I think that is what we have got to watch over the next few years. I think with that I would just urge the body to reject the motion to indefinitely postpone, and then from there, we will proceed to advance the bill to Final Reading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.