

field offices for rural economic development. We're going to put some...four additional field offices out there. That was over my objection. I didn't think we ought to do that but we did do that. So now I think that we need to provide them with the framework to be able to do what they need to do. And the things that we do in this bill are not something that we just thought up out of the air. There was a study done and it was looked at very carefully. There was some...there was some consultation with some national people on how the Department of Economic Development was put together and they said these are some changes you need to make to make your department more effective. We are going to try and make those changes with 639. We are going to try and provide them with the proper framework and we're going to watch them very closely. And, hopefully, they will make the changes and do the kinds of things that we think need to be done within the department. And I am going to be watching them especially closely in rural economic development and, hopefully, this flexibility will give them the capability of hiring the kinds of people that understand rural economic development and are able to do the kinds of thing that the small towns out there need from an economic development office. And, hopefully, we'll get those kinds of people in those field offices. With that, I would simply urge the body to pass this bill because I think we're providing the proper kind of a framework. We're going to still be watching them closely but I think we can provide them with the framework and the flexibility to do their job properly. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I just would appreciate Senator Baack's cooperation. I do expect Senator Baack to watch them and I do anticipate that if, once again, we don't see that promises are kept that we will be back in here to discuss that. But we have gone through it before. We tightened down the flexibility in that department for a specific reason. As Senator Hannibal talked about, we do it for all the other departments, trying to give some direction and some guidance from this Legislature. I just think we open it up too far to allow us to continue with the passage of this bill and I would ask you to vote against it. But appreciate very much the sincerity of Senator Baack and those that support the bill and I hope we won't have the problems that I anticipate might occur from the passage of the bill if it does pass. With that, I would withdraw my motion.