

concerns but I guess not to the degree of Senator Wesely that would decrease the amount of appropriation they get by half a million dollars and tie their hands on the administrative side, though that dollar amount at first glance seems reasonable, I'm not sure that to keep the scrutiny that I think all of us want on these dollars, maybe it does indeed cost that much for the type of people you have to hire to do this. And so, Senator Wesely, I would once again like to work with you on this one because I think this one, you and I share the concerns about how this money is spent, but I do not concur that we should decrease the amount of appropriation. Actually, we've already cut that appropriation back by a half a million dollars this year as opposed to what it was last year. The carryover funds, basically there's not been a whole lot of activity in recent years. I think that activity has increased dramatically in the last six months with the new director. The carryover funds will not be what we once thought they were but they will still be sizeable. I think with the carryover funds in this biennium added onto the million and a half we appropriated, there is adequate money at the present level to allow this program to work, but I agree with Senator Wesely, we should watch it very, very closely. But, at this time, I do not concur with Senator Wesely that we should cut back on their funds, nor should we tie their hands, at this point, as to how much they can spend on administration, while at the same time we expect a very high level of administrative function in monitoring these investments both on their feasibility when we start out as well as once the investment occurs to make sure that the funds indeed are protected. So this time I have to oppose Senator Wesely's amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Beutler. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President, members, I strongly oppose Senator Wesely's amendment. We did have careful concerns about this issue too in the Appropriations Committee and we, I think, had quite an intense session as to how they were spending their money. I think most of us on the committee came away satisfied that our money was being properly spent and I know the issue of administrative costs had been raised before. The point is, if you're going to have a group such as this doing somewhat risky business in research and development, entrepreneurship is risky business and I think that accounts for quite a bit of the cost of what some consider excessive administrative costs. If