

and his amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Schmit. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. Just briefly I want to also rise in support of Senator Hartnett's amendment. I share some of the concerns that he has expressed and Senator Morrissey has expressed. I view this as an effort to stimulate or to give incentives to small business. And I think the kinds of incentives, as Senator Hartnett is describing in this bill, are entirely appropriate. You cannot, or I would not, anyway, expect a business to locate in the kind of distressed area that is described in the bill without incentives above and beyond those that we might grant in other areas of the state. And I would simply suggest to you that if we do not extend these kinds of credits and this kind of opportunity to these businesses that there will be no chance or a very small chance that we will, in fact, see much substantial growth or improvement in the conditions within the areas that would be defined within Senator Hartnett's bill. It's simply an opportunity that we can afford to give and should give to businesses to locate and to improve conditions in these very distressed areas that are the target of Senator Hartnett's bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I rise in support of the first half of the divided Hartnett amendment. But I certainly understand Senator Hall's position on this. Sitting on the Revenue Committee, we get dozens of bills every year calling for additional exemptions or additional tax credits, all of which have very well reasoned arguments in favor of them. It's not very often that I decide to reduce our tax base by voting for one of those but every once in a while one comes along where the reasons are so compelling that I do feel that I can support it. This is one such instance. I think the reason...the reasons that have been articulated by Senator Morrissey, Senator Hartnett and Senator Wickersham are all very valid and that is that these enterprise zones essentially are the most economically depressed areas of the state. These are the areas of the state where the building vacancy rate is very high, where there is very high unemployment, where the individuals that live there are typically very, very low income. These are depressed areas and I think any...to get a firm to