

amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President, I would rise in opposition to the Hall amendment. I understand what Senator Hall is talking about in consistency. But I think 5 years is more than enough time, I think 15 years is too long for the other piece of legislation, so I'd rather not have this go to 15 years when I don't think the 15 years on the other is appropriate. But it's kind of ironic as we talk about the number of years that we'll be asked, later this session, to talk about welfare reform and limiting welfare benefits to 2 years, but we're talking about 5 years, or 15 years, or however many years to provide for these corporate tax breaks. In one case we're very quick to try and help people and move them along so that they're self-sufficient, and in the other case we don't seem quite as concerned about it. I'm recalling once again on this issue my battles in the past to try and help low income homeowners get some relief from the rates of electricity back when they were particularly high in the early eighties and we were having a crisis. I remember going to visit my grandfather in his home where he had a home that he lived in alone, my grandmother passed away, and he lived in the back of the house with a kitchen and the bathroom and the bedroom he lived in were the only rooms that he heated. He could not afford the heat for the house, and the rest of the house was ice cold. And, of course, when we'd come over he'd try and heat that up. But he didn't have the money to pay to heat the house that he lived in. And that wasn't the... an isolated example, there were many and there still are today, individuals who are low income, living in homes, a lot of them elderly, trying to pay for the electricity bills. But we don't give them a break, we don't cut them any slack, we do cost of service, that's the line that we've always been following. And then they say, well there are other programs that are out there to assist them with their electrical bills, and that is in fact true. But here we are with the very big and the powerful coming in, and they want a break, and of course we're going to do that. The irony is hard not to recognize and to remark upon. But again, I think the 5 years is more time that I'd even want to give, and going to 15, I think, is too long. I'd oppose the Hall amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Mr. Clerk, do you have some things for the record?

CLERK: Madam President, I do. First of all, Senator Kristensen