

explain what I am going to do this morning. On Friday, I did not vote on LB 830 because I was troubled by what happened on the floor the night before when we took out the cost-benefit analysis, and I agreed with Senator Warner that that changed things a lot. It changed them for me and I was not prepared to go ahead and support the package as long as there was no language in a bill that would take care of that. Today, having talked with Senator Wesely and having talked with the Director of Economic Development, Maxine Moul, and understanding that there were...that there really is going to be some additional work put on, the cost-benefit analysis language, I'm going to...I'm going to vote for LB 829. It is something that I wanted to do, something I wanted to do on Friday, but I was uncertain what was going to happen. There were really two reasons why I wanted to support this package of bills. One reason is that I...the idea of bringing increased higher wage job to this state is very attractive to me, and the second reason was because of cost-benefit analysis. I felt that if we had that in there, what happened to us on LB 775 wouldn't happen again. I would have felt good if there would have been a third provision in here and that third provision was the one that Senator Wesely introduced a number of times on the floor that would have mandated a minimum wage that would have been higher than what you regularly think of as the minimum wage because I thought then if we were going to give these kinds of breaks to these kinds of businesses, then there were certain things that we could ask in return. However, I did say when we were discussing it, if we didn't adopt that amendment, it wouldn't keep me from supporting the package and I still feel that way, but I still feel that that ought to be one of our primary goals on any kind of future legislation. So all I have to say, I guess, in closing is that I am going to support LB 829. I am going to support it with...without reservation but I am also going to be standing right up there with Senator Wesely and holding people's feet to the fire if that cost-benefit analysis can't get worked out. And I do...and I do believe what the Director of Economic Development says that it is very difficult language to work out, that other states have had a lot of trouble working it out, and so I think it is going to take some time, and that's why I am willing to go ahead and support these bills today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, and members of the body,