

SENATOR HALL: Short answer is no. I mean it's also very possible for changes to be made in the program to allow for additional benefits, additional plants to come on line, additional incentives to be inured, if you will, for purposes of costing the state additional dollars. I mean...and I see Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment, and thank you very much, Senator McKenzie, I appreciate that because I see it potentially as saying not that we are not going to appropriate it, I read it differently. I read it to say that it's the intent of the Legislature that these funds will be appropriated. Now that may change, they may be higher. They may, of course, be lower and that will be debated on an annual basis, but I think when you lock the language in the way you do, shall transfer on or before the end of each of the following years the following amounts, I believe that that's...it is mandatory and it's specific...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time, Senator Hall, but you are recognized again for five minutes.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President and members. It's specific to the dollar figures that are in this amendment and I would argue not that you are somehow being straightforward and honest, I think what you're doing is you're handcuffing yourself. You're handcuffing yourself to these dollar amounts and I believe that what Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment does is it says, look, not do we potentially not want to do this, I read it totally differently. I read it to say that, yes, this is what we intend, but it's not guaranteed. It's not guaranteed because we may not have the money on one hand. Secondly, it's not guaranteed because they may be larger dollar figures that we're dealing with. I would urge you to seriously consider the Bernard-Stevens amendment for a different reason than where much of the debate has centered so far and I think it is a very responsible amendment in terms of dealing with these kinds of programs well into the future because you're talking, at a minimum, six years in the case of the 2001. I would rise in support of Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment and I think it's a very responsible one for possibly a different reason than others might oppose it. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Just briefly, Mr. President, as the