

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you for that. You know, for the comment that you just made...let me ask you an additional question, because again by us receiving this amendment not too long ago, or let me speak for myself, I haven't had a chance to really digest everything. Are you aware of any court opinions or anything other than our opinion that we may offer which would say that grants must be restricted in the way that you just described in your remarks?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Well, not being an attorney, I can't cite you any case on point, but I think it's fairly common knowledge in that there are cases in fact on point that indicate that the state can't lend its credit or, you know, the rest of it, in essence, cash, directly to any individual or business. So I think there are, you know, there certainly is...it has certainly been challenged or been brought up in the past.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. I still have a problem with this whole concept of including large companies. I know that the term large or small would be...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...relative and it depends on what our point of reference is, but I'm looking at the size of the fund. Six million dollars, if it remains that much, is not a large fund. So with \$6 million as the totality of the fund to be used throughout the state, a firm hiring 100 or more employees is a large company when we're looking at the size of the fund. I wouldn't be in favor of any grants to a company that large. If a company is that large and it's operating successfully, meaning that it's not deep in debt, that company should be able to go to a traditional lender and obtain the funds that are necessary for whatever it needs in order to expand its business or to keep it afloat. My time is running out so I have to put my light on again, but whoever speaks, if that person could address this question, is it envisioned that a new company would be started with these funds and that new company would hire 100 or more employees?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Wickersham, some questions, if I may, just to discover what may be intended...