

the appearance of doing something you have to knock out those companies employing 100 or more employees.

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

SENATOR ENGEL: Madam Chairman and members of the body, Senator Chambers, I certainly want to thank you for everything you've done and everyone else in the body because I think as we work through this bill since its inception, since I presented it, we have amended it in several ways, it has made it a better bill and it's more defined and I think everybody knows what the intent of it is and how it will be handled. I would like to mention that the, to go along with Senator Maurstad, that specifically this fund is not to really start up a business, but it's to augment or supplement local economic development activities and projects and that's to provide additional funding, would make a local development project complete or competitive. In other words, if something is already going or they're expanding and they just need something to get them over the top, that's what this bill is primarily for. So I'd like to thank everybody for their consideration and I do support the amendment.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: I guess I'm becoming more concerned rather than less concerned and I guess, if I can think out loud a minute I'd be interested in other people's reflections. But the nature of my concern is this and it goes back to the distinction between assisting with our competitive efforts and situations where other states have driven us to involve government in basic kinds of economic decisions. And in those particular areas, at least until such time as there is some other solution, I reluctantly, but gladly in a way, want to participate in Nebraska competing every bit as competitively as we need to compete. However, it's becoming clearer and clearer that this bill is not about competition between the states. It's about selectively giving some kind of economic support to certain projects here and there around the state through certain communities here and there around the state, and I don't believe that there will ever be a way that cost benefit will ever show that that's worthwhile because if the business doesn't believe it's worthwhile for itself, government cannot sustain the business in the long term. If it's a bad economic decision to begin with, government is not going to make it any better and a