

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Senator Crosby, members of the body, Senator Hall, I would like to respond just briefly to your second discussion with regard to your amendment, and I speak in opposition to it. I understand what you're saying but the focus, it seems to me we're saying well these really large companies wouldn't need this kind of economic incentive. I think we may...I respectfully suggest we may be losing sight of the purpose of the act in the first place. It says in Section 4 the Legislature recognizes that the Governor and the department need flexibility in the use of the fund in order to effectively promote economic development. In the sentence before it says, therefore the selective enhancement for Economic Development Fund is created. And I plead guilty to thinking that this is a fund created with this measure of discretion, whatever we allow, to the Governor in order to, quote, close a deal when we are in pursuit of companies that fall within the parameters of the guidelines we've now established that could come into our state and could grow larger and could employ more people and could become the kinds of companies and the kinds of employers and the kinds of corporate citizens which would not qualify for, nor need any of this type of economic inducement in order to come. I fear that striking language relating to warehousing distribution and transportation especially strikes at one of our greatest strengths, which is our central location. I think huge opportunity awaits us in the future to focus on our transpor...our central location for those activities and the economies that can be affected by locating jobs here. And I would urge the defeat of the amendment for those reasons. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Engel, on the Hall amendment.

SENATOR ENGEL: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I, too, oppose Senator Hall's amendment for now. And I just want to reiterate that the language in this bill, as far as the proportion he wants to strike, is right out of LB 829. So the same language is in 829. And then as far as the different businesses he was referring to, Werner and so forth, and I realize who he's talking about there, but I don't think that's the intent. I guess I have...the Economic Development Commission is where this is all going to start as far as recommendations. And I think the intent of this, again I am understanding down here that intent is a very dangerous word.