

hearing in the Natural Resources Committee in one form, dramatically changing it and wiping out the entire \$14 million Weatherization Fund in terms of it's...wiping out...taking the whole fund and switching it over to a new purpose. Now I would suggest to you that that kind of dramatic action requires a little more inspection than just a few comments on the floor about how the program is being administered and certain people's ideas that it's being poorly done. The Department of Education doesn't need any FTEs to administer the program, huh? Well, I would suggest to you that that could just as well indicate that there are some people without work in the Department of Education as much as it indicates that there are people doing too little at the Department of Energy. This is a major, major shift, it's being done on Select File to wipe out an entire program for a particular department, it's being done contrary and going around the committee process. I don't think that Senator Robinson would look with much favor on this process if it had been something in his committee. I don't think that the process is a very thoughtful and deliberative process to do it in this manner, and so I wanted to object very strenuously to the taking of the Weatherization Funds, and we'll get to that eventually. And I think there are many other parts of this amendment that are deserving of some real inspection and some real tough questioning such as that that has been begun by Senator Wickersham. And with that, I will save my subsequent remarks for the more specific items that we're discussing. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Witek, to speak to the Wickersham amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: I rise in support of the Wickersham amendment and I'm disappointed in the Robinson amendment, but I will vote for the Wickersham amendment because I believe the Robinson amendment needs to be changed in more ways than just this one amendment. I've looked it over, and I had voted for the original bill because I had had a bill in this year to take the lottery money and put it into the 1059 fund and allow that to be distributed, they already have an administration that we're paying for, allow that to be distributed to the schools, because to me when people voted for education in a lottery they didn't do it necessarily for the Education Innovation Fund, they did it thinking that it would go to help out...to pay for some of the costs we have in education right now, and thinking that it would help out with those costs. And what is occurring in the