

result in some change in property tax obligations, but it certainly wouldn't be the immediate effect that you would see in an equalization district if they had a grant that was counted as an accountable receipt. So I think if you're going to...if you're going to insist on a change in the program so that you can carry out perhaps some other objectives, I would hope that you'd be cognizant of the benefits of having this operated as a loan program rather than a grant program. And if you want to operate it as a loan program, quite frankly my suggestion is that you adopt my amendment because it starts that up. And if you want to have someone other than the Energy Office administer the program, bring an amendment after my amendment is adopted. At this stage it would seem to me to be a little bit awkward to develop a whole new concept and put all of the proper changes into the bill to both convert it into a loan fund and also to change the supervisory agency, if that's what you chose to do. So I would simply suggest to you, you ought to adopt this amendment first, and then debate the issue of who is going to administer the funds if that is a critical issue to you. Now I don't know whether Senator Beutler would have any suggestions for you about who should administer the fund because that issue I think was maybe not even discussed in the Natural Resources Committee in conjunction with 582, maybe it was, maybe we'll hear from he or other members of the Natural Resources Committee in that regard, I don't know. Senator Withem has given you some arguments in favor of changing...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...the administrative agency. I'd be happy to hear more about those arguments. But I think the other separate issue of whether or not it should be a grant or a loan program, I can very solidly come down on the side of this being a loan program, so that it is a program that we, the State of Nebraska, would stay in for the long haul, and in addition so that we would not cause unintended effects through the 1059 funding formula. So I would, again, urge you to adopt this amendment. If you want to address other issues, do those through other amendments, I'll be happy to listen to that debate. But I think at least for the purpose of converting this from a grant program to a loan program, this amendment ought to be adopted.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Before the next speaker, I'd like to call the senators' attention to a guest of