

for Internet purposes from whatever source, and if they were...if they qualified as special grant funds for the approval of the Department of Education, as I read the statutory provisions, it would be excluded. So I apologize to the body if I've misled you in that respect. It is...as I say, I should have consulted with the counsel for the Education Committee before raising that suggestion. It is not, in my reading of that statute, a foregone conclusion that those grant funds are exempted, but they could be with the proper approval from the Department of Education. But aside from that issue, I do think it is still important, and we are starting to hear more and more in discussion about the notion that we are going to have efficiencies, which bureaucracy is going to do this, whether the Department of Education can do it, whether the Energy Office can do it. I will reiterate, again, for I think probably the boring fourth or fifth time that I think the initial issue is whether or not we are going to have a program that continues for the long term, and that one of the more essential elements in the amendment that I'm proposing to you is the allowance of a long-term program, not the short-term benefits that come from a grant program, and I still think that is an essential element. I also do believe that it is essential to continue the weatherization program. Senator Beutler has begun the discussion on that issue and I appreciate his input. I think the weatherization program has had significant benefits across the State of Nebraska. No matter who administers it or how it is administered, it has had significant or produced significant benefits across the State of Nebraska. I know it was due to sunset on...next year, but based on the hearing that was had on LB 582 in the Natural Resources Committee, and the fact that the Natural Resources Committee advanced that bill to the full Legislature, at least those amongst our membership had made the decision that the program was worthwhile and should continue, and I don't believe that Senator Beutler has indicated that that program should be terminated on Select File, particularly when we have had a committee recommend that it...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...continue. I think that's not an appropriate kind of a judgment to make in this body at this time. Now I've been here a couple of years now, and I've seen instances in which the Legislature has done worse things. They've done them on Final Reading, but it wasn't good for our process, and it didn't necessarily produce good legislation.