

go forward, and I will say, again, that I agree with the effort that he is making. I believe that Internet is important, but I believe, likewise, that it is important for us to be careful in our funding, if we are going to have funding, for that effort, and much prefer the loan program as opposed to outright grants, and all the implications that they have. The other important aspect I believe of the amendment is that it does allow continuation of the weatherization program. Senator Beutler has spoken to that particular issue and the benefits that the weatherization program has conferred across the state, handed out information that I hope you've had a chance to review as we have been carrying on the discussion. It has conferred substantial benefits and I would expect it to confer additional benefits in the future if we will simply allow it to continue. Those are, I think, the essential and the important decisions to be made. If you want the loan program for the Internet to be administered by somebody else, that is somebody other than the Energy Office, fine. You can decide that in a later amendment, but you don't need to reject the idea that it is going to be a loan program now, and you don't need to terminate the weatherization program now. You can make the other decision later on. I would simply urge your support for the amendment, for continuation of the loan program for weatherization and for the institution of a new loan program, which should enable districts across the State of Nebraska to participate in the Internet program. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Before we take.. before we vote, would everyone please check in so we know who is here. Senator Bromm, Senator Vrtiska, would you please return...would you please check in. Senator Wesely, Senator Jensen. Okay, the question we are voting on is the Wickersham amendment to the Robinson amendment. Would all in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record please.

CLERK: 10 ayes, 26 nays on the amendment to the amendment, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: The amendment fails. I will raise the call.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend Senator Robinson's amendment. (See AM1859 found on page 1891 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Beutler, to open on your amendment.