

are amendments that if the bill would actually become law would make it, in my opinion, a better bill and that's what this amendment is. With the discussion we had on the budget this morning, there is no doubt that I think the mood of the Legislature is the correct mood because I think the body knows that now is the time that we need to begin, not begin, now is the time we have to make decisions on spending. And I was just doing a brief calculation and it was very brief and so it's going to be somewhat rough, but if you look at the green sheet, we have on Select and Final Reading about \$29 million worth of spending if you add up both years of the next biennium and I'm not even going to talk about the outlying biennium where it gets even worse, we're just going to talk about the next biennium. About \$29 million of spending, of which, if we were going to maintain just the 3 percent reserve, if we're going to do just the 3 percent reserve, not one cent more, we have about \$17,653,894 to spend if we chose to go right down to the 3 percent reserve. If we did that, we need to cut from either the 392, the mainline budget, or Final Reading Bills or Select File bills about \$12 million, \$12 million. Now the Legislature went a major step forward when they did not agree to that \$25,000 amendment this morning, so we're well on our way now balancing this budget but we still have \$12 million to go. This bill has got to end and stop here. We'll find \$6 million of that 12 million we need on this bill. It is a new bill, a new program and so it's new monies at a time when we simply cannot, do not have the luxury of doing that. I would recommend to the Department of Economic Development that if this truly is something that they really believe in as a top priority, then the next session of the Legislature they reorganize their priorities within the department which the monies that we now have out there on economic development issues and eliminate the lower priority ones and shift the funding into this type of program and I would be probably very supportive of that nature, which brings me to the amendment. I believe, I really believe that the bill should be killed and I am hoping that it will be killed and at some point I do have a kill motion when we get to it on this particular bill and we'll save \$6 million of the 12 we need to cut. But if, for some reason, it is not killed and if, for some reason, the bill advances forward, I do believe and I think most people in the body will agree that it will be at a substantially lesser amount. If that, in fact, will be the case or if it could be the case, this amendment then makes sense because if you're going to have a reduced amount, substantially reduced, and I would guesstimate the amount to be, if it