

too, would rise to oppose the amendment. I think others have already made it pretty clear that as a matter of public policy that there is, in the long run at least, should be a benefit, will be a benefit from the concept of a cost benefit analysis of these areas and the kind of cost benefit analysis that I'm thinking of when I say that is one in which over some prescribed period of time that the state can justify the expenditure of public funds for economic development in a way of tax incentives by virtue of the enhancement to the economy, the jobs, the additional tax revenue that...and the reason for doing it is not to turn them down. The reason for doing it is to give credibility to the concept that tax incentives have a positive influence over time as far as a matter of public policy. And I think Senator Maurstad made some comment to the operation of government in general and that too is a concept. In fact, I've been reading for the last couple days a conference proceeding that Senator Hillman gave me on performance measurements in government, but that's not a cost benefit analysis, that's a different kind of measurement that one can use and very appropriately use and Senator Hillman spent a lot of time at that and I'm intrigued with the concept myself, but that's something different than a cost benefit analysis that we're talking about in this. In time, and I suspect that time is not going to be more than a year or two, I think we can more clearly define what cost benefit analysis ought to be, like how it ought to be done or it does exist in both DED and the Department of Revenue, although, as I recall, they don't use the same method, at least not precisely. But I think the concept ought to stay in there as a matter of public policy even though it is undefined at this point, but in time I would anticipate that it will be defined and defined in a way that both those would advocate these tax incentives or other government programs to expand economic development. I suspect that all sides will be able to accept the concept for the simple reason that it adds credibility of the whole process and, as already said, it's not unusual anymore for a state or even localities to spend a great deal of money on an evaluation of some of these projects before they begin to spend money and the fact that that would be a matter of state policy I think is desirable and I would hope the amendment is not adopted.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to just address a couple of comments that have been made. First of all,