

do. But to try to do a fast shuffle on us and change the thrust of this bill makes me wonder if there are some specific operations that are in contemplation who will be seeking this money. I'd like to ask Senator Wickersham a question if he has come back to his desk.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Is Senator Wickersham in the Chamber? I do not see him, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then I'll proceed. I'll ask Senator Engel this question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Engel, would you respond.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Engel, do you have knowledge of some businesses waiting to make application for this money should this bill pass?

SENATOR ENGEL: Senator Chambers, I do not have any specific knowledge, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Of specific businesses, that's what I mean.

SENATOR ENGEL: Yes, I do not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Because we know that there will be people watching the bill and they might at some point apply, so I don't mean in a general way.

SENATOR ENGEL: I would hope so, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. And I wanted to ask Senator Wickersham the same question. Senator Engel, would you be opposed to limiting the definition of eligible businesses to those having no more than 100 employees?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Yes, I would, and the reason, as I've given you before, 75 percent of the funds are for those under 100, only 25 percent over, and what I'd like to get across is that there might be a viable business and we have to make a decision now and they could have over 100 employees.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute, Senator Chambers.