

amendment because it will pick up support and they may actually add and gain support for the bill and so I'm... Senator Chambers, I'm waffling a little bit on my support for your amendment now. I may have to watch it closely because I'm getting nervous that the amendments that you're offering are going to improve the bill so much that people will start voting for it and I'm concerned on that. So, yes, I said I'd support the amendment but I hope you understand that I'm going to be watching the board quickly and if there would be 24 amendments because Senator Engel would realize that it really does help the bill, I may have to change at the last minute because I don't want to improve the bill that much on it. In all seriousness, I do want to bring the discussion back to where it's going to end up and that is I don't think that many people in the body have a total opposition to the policy of the bill. I have some questions, as Senator Chambers does as well, in regards to what actually can be done with the monies, how it will help the economy, will there be more employment, why do we need 15 years for anything to net out, but those are technical questions on the issue. I support, in essence, what Senator Engel was trying to do and the Governor's initiative of what they're trying to do. But the whole argument, at some point, after we get through with all of these other more technical arguments that are very legitimate is, can we afford a new program at this time based with what the other priorities the Legislature knows that it has to spend? And the answer to that, unfortunately, Senator Engel, is, no, we can't. We have to, and I've just been adding up on the green sheet again, we have to cut at least \$12 million between now and adjournment if we're going to meet our reserve requirement and have a balanced budget. We'll have to do that. I don't know of anybody that has \$12 million worth of cuts on the A bill, or on the mainline budget. I think Senator Avery has some motions, other people have motions as well. Of course, I'll have the reconsideration on the budget buster, the \$25,000, and I understand that, but I don't think there is any place where there is a motion for large numbers of dollars that we need to find. And if we only cut 12,000 and we spend the rest, I might also point out that that means at the next biennium we'll be right at the 3 percent reserve, no cushion, not a penny more. That's somewhat dangerous and you look at the outlying year and we will not even be in balance for the outlying year so we'll have further difficulties as we go into it. So the real question on this issue is, can we afford this at this time when we already have Senator Vrtiska's bill on Final Reading that's going to be adding a half a million dollars into regional