

great position to be in, taking a cut because we don't have money. When you look at the balance sheet the money is there. Where we don't have the money is on the bills we have proposed on the A bill side. Where we don't have the money for those that signed the resolution is because we made a policy decision in this body to front load ethanol. And if you look at the green sheet, financial sheet, you'll notice that we have \$8.5 million, a little bit less actually now, but the \$8.5 million a year to spend on A bills, and that's if you just want a 3 percent reserve. Not one cent more, just 3 percent. You got 8.5 each year, total of \$17 million, 16 million of that went to ethanol. And we front loaded that and we made it a transfer so it couldn't even be vetoed out. And we said at that point, I'd like to go back and if I had a chance to look at the rhetoric again then, and I call it rhetoric because obviously we didn't believe what we said, we said at that point we know it's the responsible thing to do, and we know we're going to have to make those tough choices. And then when 425 is up in front of us, no, can't...don't have the courage...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...to go to the sponsor of the bill and say, I know I told you that I was going to support it earlier in the session, but I can't do it now because the financial situation is different, or I like the Governor, it's his proposal, I don't want to do anything, I hope the rest of you have the courage to do it, but I just don't want to do it. This bracket motion is wrong. If I were the Appropriations Committee, probably the thing to do is to go back, if we send it back there, and Senator Wehrbein, just take it across-the-board cut, just do it that way. That way we won't have to make any tough policy decisions, we won't have to look at a particular program and say, that is less important than something else. We'll just do across-the-board cuts so efficient programs and good programs are cut equally with the bad programs and inefficient programs. Then we can go back and say how strong we were, how good we were, but we didn't care to make a priority of what is important for us. If you have concerns, offer the amendment and then for Pete's sake have the courage to vote on what we need to do.

SENATOR HALL: Time. Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Jensen, your light is next.