

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President, and fellow senators, I rise to support the Warner amendment and if the Warner amendment is adopted, I will most certainly support the bracket motion. And it's...this is very, very difficult, I think, for many of us. I have a great deal of respect for what the Appropriations Committee has done and the work and the hours that they have put in. And it's because of that respect that I have the confidence that they are the best people to recommend solutions to what I think we find is a dilemma for us. I think we have a feeling in our gut, so to speak, that we are...that we have a little bit too much of an increase in the budget for the next biennium. And those of us who are not on the Appropriations Committee and did not hear the testimony and are not as intimately familiar with what affect changing a particular part of the budget might have... aren't as comfortable doing it unilaterally or by individual amendment without the...without recommendations from the Appropriations Committee. Generally, I would like to see us reduce the budget increase by something in the neighborhood of 1 percent. I don't think that I feel very good knowing exactly where that 1 percent should come from although I will be willing to try to make that decision if I have to, but I feel more confident in those who have spent the hours that I was in Natural Resources and I was in other committees, the hours they were spending with the individual agencies and looking at the budget in detail. I feel more comfortable asking them to take a look at it and come back to us with a recommendation. I suppose they very well could come back with recommendation that they can't do any better than they have. And if that is the case, at that point, I very well may go ahead and support the budget as is. But I would like to see them...I would like to see them make one more...take one more crack at it, so to speak, and where they think it would be the least painful for us to make some cuts. I think Senator Warner's amendment makes a lot of sense. I think if we give them that additional flexibility then they have something on the table to work with they haven't had before in their deliberations during the first seventy some days. With Senator Warner's amendment, there are things on the table that they could recommend that they can't do otherwise. So it adds a new dimension. So I would most certainly urge the body to adopt the Warner amendment. Now I would like to speak for just a moment. I think...I think Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Withem would probably give us the message that it's out of order to go through this process that we're doing, that it's inappropriate and it's out of order. I take issue with that. I think we have every right to express our confidence in