

states are going to continue to be able to secure. The thinking is, and I know I'm not directly addressing his amendment, but I'm trying to lay out the groundwork of what is happening here. The federal government is saying we aren't going to be doing this anymore, we're going to shut down the matches that we've had, we're going to try and cut down our budget and states are scrambling now to try and take every dollar they can because there's a possibility of sort of a hold harmless decision, a capping at a certain level that we're at and going forward from that point. And so if we do not have in place the funding from the federal government when they make that decision and decide to cap it for the future, we have the chance of not only having missed out in the past, but missing out in the future. And so I'm very much in a dilemma where I believe that the decision to go forward with the Maximus was one that should have been made in tandem with the Legislature. We should have been informed and we should have had a chance to have input and that did not occur so that angers me. I do think on the other hand that the decision to try and secure the federal funding was the right one and probably under the circumstances trying to bring in some expertise that can move quickly under the time constraints we're in is probably what we needed to do. The better course of action I think for us in retrospect and in the future as well would be to stop the idea...

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...of having to try and bring in consultants and hiring people on contingency contracts but instead building the expertise within state government, having it there for us forevermore. It's lower cost, it's there on a more permanent basis and then on an ongoing basis try in every case to maximize, not just federal dollars, but private dollars and what have you to try and stretch every state dollar that we can to do the best we can with that. Unfortunately, because of the effort to privatize and the decisions against this idea in the past have forced us into our back against the wall. And so I guess there needs to be so much more said about this. I'll conclude at that point but there is a long context of this issue as Senator Chambers is laying out as well and he's raising a lot of concerns in terms of legal and constitutional and as well as fiscal obligations that we have. I'm trying to also lay out some of that concern that I have about the situation we are in