

me that we would...we would take a program and money that's been there for 13, 14 years, that the origin is oil severance tax and without anymore debate than that, without anymore consideration or study than that, divert it into a program where we're going to hand out the money in grants. The money will be forever gone. The weatherization program is a loan program. it is a revolving fund. The money comes in, the money goes out. It's used again and again, zero interest loans to facilitate schools being able to do energy economizing projects. There's a bill on General File which is, I believe it's LB 582, which would expand the purposes and uses of the weatherization fund to allow loans for technology, such as those projects that Senator Robinson wants to do, and that would be possible. If 582 came to the...came to Select File and to Final Reading and we passed it, you could use the 13 million plus in weatherization funds to help enhance technology opportunities and the program is already there, it's set up. That's an alternative that should be considered. And there are probably other alternatives that should be considered. Those schools that have already bitten the bullet, so to speak, and spent their own tax dollars to hook up the Internet need some consideration, some input, some opportunity to provide means for some equity in this whole situation. I guess, I think the Education Committee, as well as others who are interested in the Legislature, should have an opportunity to fully explore this whole situation before we put into statute a major change like I think this is. I don't...I don't quarrel with the objectives of making sure that all schools are technologically up-to-date and I don't quarrel with helping them get there. What I do take issue with is the manner in which we're proposing to do it and particularly the amendment that was hooked on in late April, AM1576, which summarily takes the weatherization fund out of existence and funnels it all to technology and creates a grant program, a give-away program, if you will, which will deplete that fund forever and ever. Now we've had an in...we've had an indefinite revolving fund which I think has served good purposes. I'm waiting and I want to wait on the results of the...of the program evaluation unit and see what it says. If that says the fund is absolutely of no value anymore, it should not be continued for any purposes, then so be it. I will sign onto the amendment or the bill to do it. But I don't want to operate without that knowledge, without that...without that study that I think we need to have the benefit of. And so I am serious about it. I expect to hear from those who if there are some who feel like I do and some that don't, I think we need to have a discussion for sure before