

February 28, 1996 LB 1373

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...the figures I have used for this billion dollar obligation, it's 145 companies that we're basing it on, but there are another 134 companies that are in the process of qualifying for these credits. So these companies will come on board, and the billion dollar figure will be added to by these other companies to whatever degree they meet the different criteria that qualify them for the tax credits. So ultimately, the ultimate cost here is a billion plus and will be utilized over the course of the next 15 years, which comes out to, at this current time, at about a 70 million dollar a year loss in revenues. If you look at, and I guess we'll be talking a bit more about this later, you'll see another chart that shows we actually have a net gain in revenue, supposedly, in the next five to six years, and ultimately make back the losses of...back, I think the year is 2017.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise, I guess, as a matter of making sure that we understand what we are doing and what we're not doing. And as I sit on the Revenue Committee, I did support the bill out of committee and continue to do so. And during the Micron debate, when the cost/benefit analysis discussion occurred, I think I remember standing up saying that I've got two sets of numbers and I don't know which set to believe, they both probably have some validity, and so what I wound up doing was not considering either one. That may not have been particularly good policy, but it became a very political reality at the time. My biggest caution to the body is that do not use these numbers and reports to replace what the policy should be. These numbers are developed and I hope, and I have pretty good assurance, I think, that we'll develop a credible model. The model is used to assist you in making policy, not determine what the policy should be. And so as sometimes we all tend to do with like state aid printouts, if our numbers are positive, that must be good policy, and if our numbers are negative, that's poor