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balance of this state, both in terms of population and in resources, and unless we find some way to change that process to cause our rural areas to either stabilize in terms of population or to repopulate, which would be ideal, then we're in for a lot, I think, significant problems in the state. It is not okay to say that the rural areas can continue to depopulate, that our communities can continue to lose people, that it is okay if only the eastern third of the state grows rapidly and produces all...most of the resources that are necessary to support state operations. That's not okay, and the only way I know of to reverse that is to provide some means, some mechanisms, some desire to remain in the rural areas and to be a productive member of the communities. If Senator Wehrbein's bill will do that, it will accomplish something that is good for the state. So please don't be misled by this argument over whether it should be a credit or whether it should be an appropriated fund. I believe it should be an appropriated fund that is the source of the dollars for Senator Wehrbein's objective, but I think that because it is accountable; not because I disagree with the objective, but because I want to be accountable for the objective, and I want to continue to monitor the program to know if it's effective. I am simply afraid that we won't do that if it's an income tax credit. And I would also like to provide some sort of a mechanism so that I...I can hope that some part of the benefit is directed to that beginning farmer or rancher. And, while AM1478 may not be perfect in that regard, it does more in that regard than I believe...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...that the amendment that...the current text of LB 630 does. I think those are not necessarily large disagreements with Senator Wehrbein and I don't think that you ought to believe that this discussion that we're having is about whether there is support for Senator Wehrbein's idea. There is support for Senator Wehrbein's idea. I support Senator Wehrbein's idea. I just want to make sure that it's funded in what I see as a responsible fashion and that we get some opportunity, anyway, for that beginning farmer or rancher to actually see some direct benefit out of the program if we advance the bill.