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body. I do rise to oppose the amendment. I was the dissenting vote in the committee, and I will explain why. I think that there are many good things in this world, and just because they're good does not mean that they're a good government function. This certainly could be a government function if we were looking at a municipality who has oversight over all kinds of activities within the city. And I think that neighborhood associations should be seeking these funds from their municipalities. I don't believe that this is the responsibility of the state to provide these funds back to the municipalities' small units like this. We do have a block grant that we do give out in state aid to the cities. If they chose at the local level to dole it out to neighborhood associations, they would be well able to make that choice. Obviously, at this point in time they have not done so. And therefore, these people are coming to us. Last year in the Urban Affairs Committee, we discussed this bill, and we talked about the fact that there are already at least one or two ongoing programs that come out as grants from the state level. And we talked about even coordinating, using the \$50,000 to coordinate those programs back to the neighborhood associations, because they were multiplying, duplicating, and certainly becoming lost in the mix. And so to add another program of this nature, another grant program to neighborhood associations, I do not support. And I hope that people will not burden this bill with this. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Kiel.

SENATOR KIEL: Yes. Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. A couple more things about this particular amendment. We have talked about that I've had it for several years, and we have had it in front of Appropriations and also Urban Affairs, and then also did an interim study on it to take a look at what kind of things we thought we could do that would really help small rural communities and neighborhoods do the smaller initiatives that I think are important. And I would mention at this point that the Rural Development Commission and the Center for Rural Affairs came in in support of this particular...when this amendment was a bill, both of them indicated strong support for it, because they see a serious need for small rural communities to be able to have access to small amounts of fund to do kinds of projects that do improve the