

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 29, 2000

LB 1348

recognized to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the fracturing of government, because we all don't want to work together in one department, but feel that we have a special understanding with one particular department, I don't think is a particular healthy thing. This particular bill doesn't deal just with marketing, it deals broadly with value-added, it deals broadly with other potential products...projects in the rural areas. There...really in the bill there is not much limitation on what can be done. It's very, very broad conceptually. And that program is going to overlap potentially with a number of other programs. It will overlap with the Microenterprise Program, for example, which operates out of the Department of Economic Development. Now I had to draw this amendment quickly because I wanted to get before you the question of what you feel should be the principal operating agency to run the program. I have nothing against consultation with the Department of Agriculture, and if you should see fit to approve this amendment, I'll immediately move to amend it further to add that consultation. So that's not a problem. But, you know, with Senator Kiel's amendment one of the problems I had was that the program is not in the Department of Economic Development. And there are all kinds of possibilities that could be developed that would continue to splinter this effort. I think it's very important that we keep it together and keep one group of officials knowing what's going on to the right and to the left and in front of them and all over the place, so we don't...we don't end up duplicating, we don't end up with gaps that we haven't filled, or we don't end up with disputes over what should be done particularly. So, I see no reason for putting it under the Department of Agriculture that would not be an argument for putting some other program in some other department that happened to relate a little bit more to that department. I mean, if you had an economic development for parks, are you going to put that in Game and Parks? Well, I would rather see an economic development program, if that's what it was, if that was its orientation, put in the Department of Economic Development, because after all what we want to get out of this program is, in fact, economic development. We don't want to just spend the money because it's in the agricultural sector, for example, or we don't want to just spend the money for