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FLOOR DEBATE

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been failing us for 50 years. Decade after decade after decade they have failed the rural areas and, yet, we're not able to break out into new ways of looking at things and new ways of doing things. Sometimes, in order to create the atmosphere for new and different industries, you have to do some things that are not altogether good for existing industries, and you have to choose which industries are the future and which industries are the past. In any event, I hope you can support this particular amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Vrtiska, your light is next.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. First of all, I want to make it clear, in case somebody has a misunderstanding, that I am for workplace safety. I don't think that that should be the issue we're debating here. I think workplace safety is an important issue that we need to recognize, and I certainly do that. You also have to understand we do have OSHA that does inspections the same as this program, but that's another issue and I'm not going to get into that. I'm just disappointed that we have to bring up this whole issue and revisit it again because the management, in my opinion, and this is just my opinion, was such that it wasn't properly run. Unless I can...and as I said before, unless I can get some assurance that a program will be properly run so that the inspections are done and people in the work safety program is carried out in a manner that provides the kind of service that we're paying for or that the...this increase in funds will pay for and do the job correctly. If I can get that assurance then I really don't have a problem. I still have a problem with the amendment coming up on the floor without a public hearing where we could get the input from everybody involved in this issue so that we would hear the pros and cons of this program. And I think it's important. I agree with Senator Connealy. It's really an unfortunate situation that this all came to light at such a late date. I have no knowledge. Senator Connealy had no knowledge. I don't know that anybody had any knowledge that the program was in a fiscal bind where they're not going to be able to continue it. Of course, we don't like to see anybody use job but that...lose job, but that's not the primary interest here. And