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FLOOR DEBATE

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make a decision to cut these programs, to eliminate these programs? Your reasoning is noble. What you want to do just...I just don't think it meets the fairness test, and I have to stand in opposition to this amendment. And I ask my colleagues to please think to yourself, please think about the work that you put into your own legislation, your own ideas that are brought to the Appropriations Committee, brought to appropriate committees in January. And here we are, the sixty-sixth day, being asked to make big, big decisions relative to these issues. I urge you to please oppose this amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Thank you, Senator Byars. I was just telling some of our friends back here, it kind of reminds me of Mr. Rogers a little bit, how you were slow and methodical, and tried to prove the point. I rise in support of Senator Quandahl's amendment. And I've been in support of Senator Chambers' amendments all afternoon, not because of the fact that I don't think the issues before us are important, but I think there's an opportunity for us to review what it is that we have in our statute. Now, while it's true we could have introduced a bill to do this, Senator Chambers could have introduced a bill to take \$300,000 out of the LUST Fund; he didn't do that. I think decisions come and decisions are made based on the information presented at the time. And I also would like to concur with what Senator Chambers said, that if you adopt this amendment, it doesn't mean that automatically these individuals will lose their money. But I think what's interesting to look at is some of the other opportunities that the individuals receiving money from the cigarette tax funds have received in other areas. We have given Game and Parks the opportunity to raise fees all over the place. We've given them the opportunity to go up to \$20 on park permits. We have given cancer research...or, we've given dollars for research from the tobacco settlement fund to the tune of \$10 million a year to four institutions, beginning in 2001. So to date, they'll receive \$20 million that they didn't receive prior to this. Replace that with the \$3 million that's here. And you go down the list, and you start looking at some of the other areas. Now, some of these are...you know, I