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thing. In our office, we're down one person and plan to stay that way. I'm not suggesting that anyone else do that. It may or may not work in other situations. What I am telling you, that in my case, if it meant that we could not go back to a full complement, if you will, in our office if we kept this position in the Fiscal Office, I would in a heartbeat opt for keeping the position in the Fiscal Office. This is critically important to the decisions you have to make. The other thing I would point out, a lot of you are interested in contracts, the state entering into contracts and hiring services performed by outside contractors rather than employing people and so on. I think this is an extreme example of that. If you hired a consulting firm to provide the information that is provided by this person in the Fiscal Office, I think that...I obviously have not gotten a bid because I haven't needed to, but it would be many, many times the cost, and you would, of course, have to do it every time you wanted to evaluate a program. The way this is or with the setup we have now, these folks not only analyze existing tax incentive programs, but any new one that comes along they're capable of analyzing. And their analyses have been complete. They've obviously gone on a learning curve so that they have figured out better and better ways to make the results more useful to the Legislature and more realistic. I will tell you that, for example, the last time...or one of the last times, not the last times, they did this sort of work, they did the...an analysis of the UP project in Omaha, and I've forgotten, maybe LB 620 was the number of that bill, but the point is their analysis was almost identical, that's maybe a little bit of an overstatement, to work done by an outside consulting firm and also by Union Pacific in terms of the impact of that particular project on the state. This is a capable group. These folks are very capable. They are experienced. They are acquainted so that they know our process. Again, I can't emphasize to you as much as I'd like, obviously, as to how important I think this is, and for this amount of money I think it's really obvious that the choice should be to do this. So again, I urge your support of this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK PRESIDING

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Beutler,