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had worked with Al Wenstrand on the drafting of this amendment, of not your amendment, but AM2005. Did you hear that testimony, or that...

SENATOR SMITH: Parts of it, yes.

SENATOR BOURNE: ..conversation? Did you work with Department of...the Economic Development Department, with your amendment?

SENATOR SMITH: I talked to them about that. It seemed to be an issue that all parties didn't dis...not all parties agreed on it. So they encouraged me to run it as a separate amendment, not necessarily because everyone was opposed to it. It's just that it was not a unanimous decision, that apparently the original number of 25,000 population for counties was very arbitrary, and perhaps did not include as many as they had anticipated.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Thank you, Senator Smith. I'm struggling as to whether to support the Smith amendment. We had Senator Landis, who had told us the other day that Al Wenstrand and himself and Senator Bromm drafted this amendment. The economic incentives will go to, I think, 82 or 83 counties. So it goes to almost all but, what, 9, 10, or 11 counties in the state. I don't know if Senator Bromm has said whether he supports this amendment or not. I know Senator Landis had said he opposed it. But I've not heard any reasons why we should support Senator Smith's amendment. And I've heard a lot of reasons why we shouldn't, namely that DED was involved and this is the number they chose. I don't know if it's arbitrary or not. My experience with Al Wenstrand and DED is they're pretty competent people and a pretty competent agency. And I find it hard to believe that they arbitrarily selected this number. It seems to me that they've been in this economic development business since the mid-eighties. And if they don't have it down to a science, maybe we should find some people that can get it there. But, Senator Bromm, if you'd like the remainder of my time to maybe explain why Senator Smith's amendment is a good idea or not. Again, I'm struggling as to what to do. I don't know if other members are. But when the Department of Economic Development says this is the number that we should use to best