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LB 608

plant. We have excluded certain ventures. Retailing doesn't count although we do have a retail distribution center that was a recent recipient of a grant program. My suggestion, as a precedent, would be that we have some sort of a living screening mechanism in place so that the applicant...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...applies, and then that there are hopefully a neutral, unbiased group that looks at it in terms of what they have to offer and says yes or no. It seems to me that's particularly important when you have a capped amount of funds that you can provide. It may be that the worst half show up first. So the money is all gone before the second group, which has really the better prospects, even is heard from. It seems to me that that sort of a screening and evaluation level, which I think has to be done by a living, breathing group of some kind, or at least supported by an analyst, I would say as well, needs to be in place in order for reasonable, rational choices to be made in economic development. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Chambers, on the Bromm amendment to the Bromm amendment to LB 608.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have no quarrel with Senator Bromm's amendment to his amendment which is what's pending. But I listened very closely to Senator Beutler's comments on the mike, and I have talked to him prior to his having spoken on the mike, and the position Senator Beutler is advocating is one that I agree with. And he will propose amendments to try to address some of what he was discussing and I will support his amendments. A point has to be reached. I find myself every time I make that comment a point has to be reached getting the feeling I've said that before and I have, but it's true each time I say it in whatever context. A point has to be reached where the Legislature is going to settle on what constitutes an equitable implementation of a program. And if the business people yowl and howl, they can do that. It might be good for them. Maybe it's the most exercise they will get. But what we do on this floor should be directed towards benefiting the segment of the public affected by whatever it is