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LB 608

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...doing anything that smacks of the abuse of public trust with regard to taxpayer specific data. I can think of no good reason why we would want to go into this area at this stage of this legislative session without a lot of very careful thought. It's much more than about economic development incentives. It's much more than about rural economic development incentives. It's about a whole host of things that we need to discuss. I would urge the defeat of the Beutler amendment but support for Senator Bromm's amendment and the bill, as Senator Landis has worked with it and all those interested in it, in order to achieve a good thing. Thank you.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: I will make a brief point. The Program Evaluation Committee essentially tells us it doesn't evaluate the program for its...essentially it tell us if it's efficiently run and well run and meeting its legislative and statutory obligations. So we generally do. The LB 775 area requires the kind of analysis that this body can bring to it. We don't have to study it much more in my estimation. We need to face up to it and do some things about it. LB 775, in my estimation, should be narrowed and deepened. We should find priorities and we should make it a stronger program, but...and I don't need a Program Evaluation Committee to tell me that. In other words, I'm somewhat indifferent to the amendment because I think the essence of the problem with LB 775 is about political choices not whether or not we are administering it well. So although if this, I don't see a harm in it like Senator Brashear does. I don't see that these are the significant issues. The significant issues were the kinds of stuff that we're talking on LB 608 and will be the kinds of stuff we will talk about next year. And I think it's fair that Senator Beutler says, look, if you do nothing on LB 775, it's a disappointment. That's what I want to talk about now. We moved this bill, it's as if Senator Beutler thinks that we have a settled body of amendments here and that we can only be tough on LB 775 from here on out. In fact, we moved from General File to Select File, and what was withdrawn was an amendment to lower the wages, to allow us to vote on the bill so we could get it over after three days. In