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SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I appreciate Senator Pederson's amendment and also the comment by Senator Connealy that if we can't afford this, then he's certainly not of a mind to try to force this through in a hurry. I think that's very helpful. And certainly one of the issues is the cost, but the other issue is whether or not this is good policy, good state policy. And I am concerned about the costs and this little...helps a little bit on the costs, but my big stumbling block is whether or not this is good state policy. The...at least the way this was presented to me, and I think maybe to many of you, is this was going to be a big help for community foundations. One question you might ask is, was it presented in such a manner that community foundations are important? And I would certainly concur with the arguments of Senator Byars and Senator Synowiecki. These folks do a great many very, very good things. But are they a failing organization? Are they going down the tubes? Is it the case that they simply can't get enough donations to do what they have been doing and, in fact, to even increase what they're doing? And I think the evidence is counter to that. I think these community foundations are doing very well and without this sort of a provision in the tax codes. My main policy concern, and I think several of you have raised it, does it make good sense to take funds out of the legislative appropriations process? Now, I will agree with you, trying to convince the Appropriations Committee or this body of the Legislature to spend money for anything is a tough go, and it may be tougher this year than it's ever been. Certainly you want to avoid that if at all possible. But I think, by the same token, that's the merit of it, that there is going to be extreme scrutiny on what's done, that it's going to make sense, that it's consistent with what we're trying to achieve as a state. You know, in the best of the cases, if you take the money out of the appropriations process, it goes to a community foundation and perhaps they remodel the opera house, and it may well be that it makes sense at the moment. But it's a...it's a sort of an act that may not make good sense fiscally, that no one may ever go to the opera or, if they do, that this is still a project that doesn't make sense to, in effect, outweigh or overtake other important activities that the state has to finance. And then the greater