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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2005 LB 273

scope of LB 273 to make federal enterprise zones eligible for the grants provided for in the legislation. The amendment provides that the Department of Economic Development administer the program with the assistance from the Rural Development Commission, which is...kind of switches the roles from the green copy version of the bill. And finally, and I know this last point will probably give the Chairman, my Chairman, of the Appropriations Committee a little bit of heartburn, it strikes the committee amendment, keeping the grant program funding at \$1 million. In consultation with Senator Cunningham and the cosponsors of the legislation under LB 273, it became apparent to me that I would not garner much support for the inclusion of the enterprise zones unless we elevated the amount available for the program. And I submit the amendment, AM0845, with the entire understanding that the amount afforded to the program will be an issue for the processes of this debate, and it is something I believe will be negotiated out as we undertake debate on the underlying bill. I would just want to emphasize what I think is a unique fit with the...if you look at the criteria of our enterprise zones, how it fits uniquely with the underlying intents of LB 273, and I would hope that the members of the Legislature would move to adopt my amendment. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. You've heard the opening on AM0845, which is an amendment to the committee amendments. Open for discussion on that amendment. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Synowiecki is absolutely right. (Laugh) This does give me heartburn. But I'll tell you, I...this is initially a good bill, the one that Senator Cunningham has. And we do have areas of our state that are really in trouble and they're deteriorating, and we need to help them in some way. And Senator Synowiecki is right in that enterprise zones have a place. But my big concern with all of this is that we are kind of jumping on our horse and riding off in about five different directions, and I think that this is a poor way to approach economic concerns of this state. We do have serious economic concerns. We need to work on development, but I think we need a