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that the Appropriations Committee has had all along, and that is, we know we're not funding everything at the level it could and probably should be funded, but we didn't feel that we had the money to do that. So we did the best we could with the dollars we had available. And things have changed a bit in that the Forecasting Board has indicated that we will have more money. But somebody asked me just a little while ago, they said, you know, that's good news that you have more money, isn't it? And I said, well, it's good news and it's bad news. I mean, it's good news from the standpoint of the solvency of the state, but the problem is, when you say that you've got additional money, you have about ten people asking for each of those dollars that knows that they need it but that we haven't had money to provide for it. I'm just afraid you set a bad precedent, and I think that in the long run it's going to be a run on many things when we do this. So I think the difference here that we're talking about is not that big a difference, and I do believe that if it's structured appropriately and managed appropriately, that there is money right now in that fund to transfer some of that money into the salary...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...differential we're talking about and still have money available for the services. So we're asking that we take the place of appropriate management in that particular entity and that we give additional money, and I just don't think that's an appropriate use of that money. So I would ask reluctantly, frankly, that we reject the proposal of Senator Byars. And I know it's a very well-meaning proposal. I know that he feels very strongly about this issue, as many of us do, but that's not the point. The point is that we are establishing a biennial budget and we can't do it one piece at a time. We have to do it in a total package, and the Appropriations Committee viewed it in the light of fairness as to all concerned. So with that, I would once again urge that we reject this proposal and that we try and work with Senator Byars and see if we can't restructure some of the work in that agency. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. On with