

would seem to me that we ought to take just a little bit of a breather, as Senator Bromm is proposing, on this bill because when we think about it, it may be much more appropriate to create an informatic\ technology loan program out of those resources that are currently available in the energy assistance fund so that, number one, schools would be, I think, less inclined to overinvest if they have to pay it back, and the resources would be available over a period of time for much more assistance for many more schools and it would also, I think, address the problem of those schools who have already rode the curl of the wave into the future and invested in some cases a number of million dollars in...in information technology investments within their system. I think this is a good motion and one that we ought to...ought to support and give ourselves a little bit of a chance to look at it. I think we could probably come up with a better program for the future in information technology assistance for our schools that would be long lasting, would be continuing and could probably be more rationally applied. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I also would like to support the bracket motion. Senator Bromm and Senator Wesely have talked a lot about the weatherization program and the weatherization funds and the continuing need for those. Senator Coordsen talked about other matters. I want to talk a little bit about what's in 860 right now and what I believe was a very hurried amendment on Select File and suggest to you that there are several very significant problems with how the Internet money, the actual school money that's being transferred into this fund would then be transferred to the schools because I don't think it's been thought through very clearly. Let me suggest to you in a general sort of way what I think some of the problems are and you can think about them and see what you think. But, first of all, it's not clear at all in this bill, and I talked to the Department of Education today, and they said that they would not give any of this money to any school district that's already spent money for these purposes. So, in other words, if your school district was progressive enough to get on top of this, and I don't know how many school districts there are out and around the state that are in this position, they are not going to get any of this money. Even if they were one of the school districts that has the largest needs in the state, they are not going to get any of this money. Now,