

the business side and you know that the business community of this state is very supportive of the University. So as we move forward and try and deal with the long-term problems of this state, and agriculture is really at the heart of those long-term problems, we must recognize the University's role in that economic development and revitalization which we're about to go through. Now we've been through hard times in this state before, in the '30s, and we came out of it and we're going through hard times now and we're going to come out of it and we've seen that in other states in the recent times as well. In Massachusetts, for instance, they had a serious problem ten years ago. They had 14 percent unemployment. They had a deficit into the hundreds of millions of dollars and they made our problems look pretty small compared to what they had ten years ago and now they're finding instead of that, they've got budget surpluses and they've got the lowest unemployment in the country and they've have turned around their situation. Now, how did they do that in Massachusetts? They did it by aggressive economic development policies in that state and by heavily investing in higher education, and if you look at that example and others across this country, you'll see the tie to economic development and higher education is as apparent as ever in our nation's history. If we want to develop this state, if we want to move past the hard times we're in now, we must recognize higher education's role in that development. It is central to our success and our future and I think all of you have been more aware of that this year than ever before and so I say to you, I understand the economic problems of those rural areas and those farmers and they are hurting right now and we need to help those people. But if ever we want to move forward, we have to recognize higher education's role and that development and we can't look at just at the short term, we've got to look at the long term today and that's why the other agencies at 3 percent and this one at 2 percent makes sense because this is the one vehicle that can drive us out of this depression and help us get back on our feet. And that's been seen again and again in other states and will be seen here in this state as we recognize their unique role in all of this development discussion that we're having right now. Now I'd also like to add that despite the fact I'd like to see the cut down to 1.5 percent, I'd like to see it at 1 percent, I'd like to see it less than that, I'm going to live with the 2 percent cut by the committee, and if it's adopted, as we did for the state colleges, for the University, that will