

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, thank you. Senator Wesely, and then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I, too, would rise in opposition to this motion. As you know, the energy fund that came from the court action, federal action as well, is kind of a gray area. It's not really federal funds or it's not state funds, it's court funds, but it's a little of both. I tend to think that there is a lot of restrictions placed on those that are trying to be met through the process that has been set up. And I would suggest at this time, you have gone through several months of hearings and applications of proposals. They have just been submitted to the Department of Energy. They have in place a mechanism to sort through the different ideas. This would really be a mistake in the middle of this effort. Actually, right now they have gone through much more than the middle of the effort. They are close to the end of the effort to pick out high quality energy projects and that is what is intended with the money. We have no great flexibility with this money. It's not like we can take it out and spend it anywhere we want to. So we would have about the same restrictions that the energy department has and they have been doing their job and I just tend to think you are not going to gain anything by this effort. I know it would be nice to pull in some extra money, but even if we pulled it in, I think there are court restrictions and federal restrictions that just wouldn't allow us to do much of anything with it anyway other than what is going to be proposed. So I don't see any advantage and I would strongly suggest that you, at this late hour without much chance to really look into the issue, that we not support the Hartnett amendment and move forward with other more budget related matters.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator DeCamp, then Senator Rod Johnson. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: I call the question.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Oh, excuse me. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate will vote aye, those opposed will vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.