

opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 3 ayes, 19 nays, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is defeated.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: I will now recognize senators who wish to debate the bill, itself. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. I very strongly opposed this legislation when proposed last year to go in the constitutional...as a constitutional amendment. I had grave concerns about the impact on the legislation in terms of creating a competition between the cities that has always been there for economic development, but now would involve the utilization of public tax dollars in that economic competition that we have been involved with over the years. You know people talk about why the cost of government has gone up, why government has grown. Here is an example, I think, of a worthwhile, reasonable issue but one which breaks new ground in what we can spend tax dollars on. And I think it is important to note as we move forward with the legislation, I do anticipate its easy passage because it was easily passed last year and voted on by the people and approved, and so I have no pretense to believe that this will not become law. But, nevertheless, it is opening up our tax dollars and our treasuries in an area that was not previously possible, and it is moving in a completely new direction, new use of tax dollars that wasn't possible in the past, and that may be good or bad. But when people talk about growth of government, it is important to note that we look to government now for areas we never looked to before. We didn't think in terms of having these local tax dollars available to buy business to come into this state, is essentially what we are doing. We are looking at that now with this legislation, and I think there is some reason for it. This is the practice that had been done in other states, we see that competition, so I understand the pressures. But, again, I emphasize, public tax dollars in the past have been used toward roads, sewers, lights, infrastructure improvements that made it possible to have a wonderful community, libraries, other types of services that built a good community that would in and of itself attract business into that community. But that seems to not be good enough because we have