

bill because it would certainly be a sad, sad thing if all of the good parts of the bill went down. So just be sure you feel comfortable with what you're doing in the event that you decide to attach this Lindsay amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens and members of the Legislature. I guess I've been waiting for someone other than an attorney to speak on the issue, but maybe someone did and I wasn't here. I think that those of us who are not of the legal profession have some thoughts on this issue, too. When Senator Kristensen brought this legislation to us a few years ago, I was at first a little bit skeptical, but became a supporter of the legislation. And since the advent of the establishment of the court, have become even more supportive, but I was extremely disappointed with the opinion that came in the Supreme Court a month or two ago that more or less diminished the power of the appeals court, so I would urge that you support this amendment, and I think that this is the way that the citizens of our state were sold on the appellate court. I know it's the way I was sold on it, and I believe we need to reestablish that fact. I will support the amendment and I hope you will, too. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President and members of the body, the Court of Appeals is a relatively new creation and has proven to be successful, not just in controlling the workload of the Supreme Court but also in the value of their decision-making, and part of the value of that decision-making is what they contribute to precedent. I believe that we must speak very clearly to what is the intent of the Legislature in this regard, and what we see as the role of the Court of Appeals. And I believe that that is all this amendment does, and I support it. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, this is a very serious issue that we're considering here, and it's good that people not trained in the law are commenting on it also because I think it