

Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Just in response to that, I recall yesterday's discussion when Senator Haberman wished to do this. The ruling was basically, Senator Haberman, you should have done that before when we were moving to bring back. I am somewhat confused at this point as to what our procedure is at this point, but given that I will withdraw the request. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay, I will explain it to you later sometime. Senator Scofield, did you wish to close please?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Very briefly, yes. I would take issue with the point that Senator Vickers made that language exists in present law that takes care of this. I don't believe that it will. What is really important here is it is equally important what is the perception of what we have accomplished today as what is actually being done. I have to tell you that I am very skeptical at this point of the proponents' willingness to make this study process work. I regret that I even have to make that statement, but if I don't get any more open communication than I have had to this point this summer, I am not going to waste my time beating my tail around on a few sandhills trails, if it is all cut and dried right now. I think we need to get the bill in its best form possible right now, and to attempt to help the public perceive the fact that all sides are bargaining in good faith on this and that we, in fact, do intend to try to get it right. The point has been made that Senator Beutler is not altogether clear about how this is going to operate. Well, I would really ask you what is altogether clear at this point on this bill? Nothing is clear at this point, and if we aren't going to try to get the bill in the best possible shape before we pass it, I don't know why we have wasted all of this time this last day or two letting the proponents put their amendments back on. I think this amendment is an important one, not only for the perception of the public out there, but also as an expression of good faith by the sponsors of the bill that they do, in fact, genuinely intend to stand by their word and try to work out some compromises here. I urge you to bring this bill back, adopt the amendment. I have no intentions of holding the thing hostage, if that is the concern of the sponsors. I will vote to advance the thing back. Thank you.