

that are seeking to have gas rate increases put into effect and I would hope...I guess what I am saying is that if one of the four senators up there for some reason continues to object when it looks like everybody else supports it, I may continue to try to adopt the amendments. But on the other hand if there is considerable disagreement among the four senators and among the folks that are affected by this, no, I will not.

SENATOR ABOUD: So I guess what you are saying is that you plan to amend 1003 into 494, would that be a fair estimation of what you are going to do, Senator Withem?

SENATOR WITHEM: Senator Abboud, I cannot make it any clearer. If there is agreement, if there is agreement, if there is an agreement on 1003, I will seek to amend it into 494. If there is not, if there is not, I will not.

SENATOR ABOUD: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, apparently there is some confusion here still. Apparently what I am asking Senator Withem is agreement among which parties, the gas company and the League of Municipalities or agreement among the members in this body. That is all I was asking Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: That question has also been answered, Senator Abboud. I said the affected parties and I would hope we would have, if the affected parties agreed, we would have consensus agreement among the four. If you are saying would I give you, Senator Chris Abboud, veto power over my attempts to offer an amendment that is agreed to by everybody else, then no.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Senator Withem. Mr. President, members of this body, what I have been involved with them is the last three years since I have been down here, and I think Senator Withem since he has been involved in the issue rather recently with the Urban Affairs Committee, is the problem that you have two groups that fight each other consistently, the League of Municipalities and the natural gas companies. What I have seen in my time here is that there is a tremendous amount of pressure that is exerted on the senators, and as you probably noticed, the pressure can be tremendous, and I saw LB 494 as a compromise to work things out. Now it is my understanding from talking to the gas companies that they are not going to be supporting it,