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and I think the answer came back, we need a County Judges Association because we have a District Judges Association. I think that's the rationale. I've read the language of it and it's strange because it seems to me that both of these ought to be ad hoc organizations just like everybody else. We don't need to put these in statute. It's a strange thing to create a statute that gives an associational responsibility that says all judges are considered members of the organization. Are we telling judges that they have to be a member of this association? Could they demit their membership in this association? Are they free to not be a member of this association? And if they aren't free to not be a member of the association, what have we done to their associational rights when we require them, by law, to join an organization? These are the kinds of things that everybody else under the sun does by a private organization, just as the county judges do right now. The fact that the district judges went ahead and put it in the statute is a very unpersuasive rationale for me. What it is is a rationale for LB 315 to read we now repeal the section of law that creates the District Judges Association, because they should be able to do the same thing as a private organization. I understand the parity argument. I understand that we have the district judges now by statute. The statute format is simply a mistake. It's a bone-headed decision to create it by law. Other organizations don't need to do this. They don't need to do this, and I'll tell you at the heart of it is a rather repugnant idea, and that is the creation of an organization by statute and then requiring a public official to be a member of it or leaving silent that they don't have to be a member of it, and yet create the implicit message that, whether the individual wants to or not, we have made them a member of an organization. That is not First Amendment associational principles in which people get to decide what organizations they are members of and what organizations they are not members of. And as charming as that introduction was, and it was, and underappreciated for the fact of the wit that went into that, I've got to tell you, I'm unpersuaded. I'm persuaded to vote for a resolution or a bill that deorganizes the District Judges Association by statute, and that's my reaction to the whole thing.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Redfield.