

In fact, I think everything should be subject to review.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, do you wish to comment on the Fowler amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, I have been very interested in the debate on this amendment. It's a very important amendment. I...I want you to realize one point, though, one very important point that we're talking about here, and it's dollars...it's dollars and cents. When we're talking about a power plant of the size that would be exempted still from the Power Review Board with the amendment, that's the 25 thousand kilowatt size of a plant, we're talking about anywhere from 15 to 20 million dollars...15 to 20 million dollars. That's a lot of money, and it could cost more than that with inflation and it's hard to estimate exactly what we're talking about in dollars cost to build a 25 thousand kilowatt plant. That's a very large expenditure of public money. It's not tax dollars in a true sense of the word, but the people are going to pay for that power plant. Now, Senator Vickers and Senator Cullan, they expressed this concern to the Committee too, do not like the idea of giving the municipalities any exemptions, that they consider them to be as much a part of the public power system in the state as any other power entity, and so why give them a break at all, the 25 thousand kilowatt...thousand kilowatt plant size, or less. I personally...personally agree with them. I think if it's good for the public power districts, and the...all other power entities in the state to go before the Power Review Board to have any plants that they want to build, to go up for consideration, then why is it wrong for the municipals to do the same thing? I don't see where we need to be inconsistent on this point, but...but, we have talked with people on the other side who would not like to see municipals at all under the Power Review Board, who would like to keep them where they are, right through the loophole, which exempts them from review. So I guess as a compromise, and a compromise I don't particularly like, I'm willing to go along with the amendment that's been proposed, but I absolutely refuse to do anything less, and make any changes to that amendment, because I know that's been discussed by Senator Kelly and some other members. I don't want to see any changes to that amendment. I don't want to see it any easier for the municipal power systems to get out from under the review of the Power Review Board. So, I reluctantly urge you to not amend the amendment, and I also am uncertain about how I personally will vote on it, but I think I will support it just because I think as a compromise it's a step in the right direction.