

and actually drawing...we are joining two diversion policies with our discussions today. The discussion of germaneness has to do with our rule that one subject be covered in a bill, and that is the reason for germaneness. Germaneness is to ensure that a bill has one subject matter and that is pursuant to our rules. However, we also have talked about the replacement of one subject matter with an entirely different subject matter, and there the issue is not germaneness but public notice, and those are two different policies. What we have here is we have a lack of public notice, a lack of public reaction and a lack of the opportunity of individuals to testify and give their opinions as to the efficacy of joining in this compact at this time and renewing the compact. And I think it behooves us particularly on today when I think this question is going to be before us in other contexts that we follow our rules and we don't distinguish between important and unimportant bills, but we simply follow the rules. And the rule says that for every bill you have a hearing. And that is what we have here. We have an open process of deliberation that allows the public to react to legislative proposals. What we have now in these committee amendments a legislative proposal that has not been reacted to by the public. I intend to object to that not only in this context but perhaps some of the other contexts that we'll be discussing later today. It behooves us to be consistent and I think we make no distinctions based on how small or insignificant the bill might be and the fact that the hearing might go unattended, but that we follow the normal policy of public hearings for legislative proposals. Now with respect to the germaneness issue, the germaneness issue is to see that an amendment to a bill follows along with the subject matter previously discussed. For example, a bill comes out of committee, the bill has had a public hearing and then on Select File an amendment of a very different nature comes onto the bill for which there was no contemplation at the public hearing, for which there has been no notice and for which, actually, you have the confluence of two different legislative proposals. That is the policy of germaneness, and that is actually not involved here because germaneness is an issue that takes place on the floor of the Legislature and not in the committee. However, with respect to the committee, the policy of public hearing and public notice does take place. Senator Dworak is correct to object. I think Senator Higgins is correct to object, and that is why I make this motion.

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to announce guests of Vicki Krejci from Senator Stoney's District, Mr. and Mrs. Lee and