

together. We are taking another agency, creating a new one that is already functioning quite well in the State Fire Marshal's Office. I see no need for this change other than the fact that we have an individual who would prefer that change, and an agency that would be...perhaps make it a little easier on some of the personnel to have this change, but in fact was the public served by this change, not at all. Now what he is trying to do, Senator Goodrich is trying to do and the agency is to get out from under the Fire Marshal. Now the Fire Marshal has almost no real authority over this office. The Fire Marshal's role is one of an administrative oversight function, does not actually control the office, but at the same time at least it is a larger entity that is overseeing this operation and there isn't again a split-off, a splintering of state government, which would occur with the passage of LB 490 and there is no reason at all that I see that really is in the public interest to make this change. I think that there are efforts that are under way, again I mention the Task Force in Government Improvement is across the board trying to consolidate. In this area they proposed a new agency that would bring together all these different functions under one agency to try to oversee the question of code regulation in this state. I similarly had legislation which would do the same thing, one agency should be in charge of this area with different divisions that would oversee state regulatory activity and code regulation. Now this is the direction we should be taking. This has been recommended and proposed and it has been difficult to implement because each little agency, each little entity, wants their own kingdom. They want their own empire. They don't want to be subject to the overall state authority that I think they ought to have and we have not been able to progress. We haven't made the change, and at the same time that we are trying to make this happen and as tough as it is, with this bill you are going to make it even tougher to bring government under control and to bring this different area in particular under control in a way that would be more efficient and effective in serving the state. I think this goes in the opposite direction of what this state is trying to do, what the Task Force is recommending, what the Governor is attempting to do. It seems to me that this is just the opposite sort of thing we should be doing. I would strongly oppose LB 490, ask you to oppose it as well, and ask yourself, what benefit is served by this, and whether or not we would be better served by consolidating, not splintering off state agencies such as this. And where is the problem that exists that the change is needed that is called for in LB 490? Where is the problem that is justifying this sort of a change in the state structure under this area? I don't think there is a need. I support efforts to kill the