

at. Senator Smith's point about who are we including on these legal notices is absolutely appropriate. The more you find the more requirements there are on legal notices, the more questions you have about why we're doing it, who looks at them, is anybody really benefitting from them? I know I, for one, never pick up the paper and even look at those notices. I doubt 99 percent of the people in the state do. What are they accomplishing? Are they really accomplishing their goals and we're now charging more and taxpayers are going to be paying more? Are we really coming back with any benefit for this increase that we're talking about in this bill? I think it's an appropriate question and I think Senator Smith is right to raise it and I hope the introducers of the bill and the supporters of the bill will recognize some of us are concerned about what we're requiring to have notice and whether that notice is actually doing any good for our state.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Kristensen, please, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of this bill as well. As we sat in committee and discussed this, the real issues of the bill are what is a fair increase and I was impressed by the presentation that it has been several years since they've been in for an increase in costs. I've been a strong supporter of political subdivisions in counties and very aware of the increase of cost and the burden that that has on the various subdivisions. However, I think this is a matter of fairness and this is a cost increase that is justified. One of the problems that we have if we don't increase the cost of some of these notice rates, we're going to have small papers out here who are also going to reject publishing and say, we just can't afford the time or cost to do this. And in many of the counties we only have one legal newspaper and if that newspaper continues on because of cost and doesn't print them or publish them, we run into a lot of problems. I support Senator Smith's request to let's study what actually is necessary to publish and why. I think it's a matter of fairness and this is one that we should pass and advance at this time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, would you like to...I don't see Senator Schmit at the moment.

SENATOR NELSON: I would like to have a committee member respond