

SENATOR SCOFIELD: If you mean anything other than I'm willing to think about this again, in light of the consultant, if your mind is already made up, then I think you should reject this amendment. If you mind isn't really made up, and you're going to truly give the consultant free reign and reconsider that, then it's appropriate to vote yes on this. The other thing that I raised on General File debate of this issue, and I would raise again, is how would...how will we deal with this consultant? What kinds of directions do we give to this consultant or contractor, which I presume would be determined by the five senators in particular and the other members of this committee? But I think we want to make sure that the process is one that clearly directs the consultant to not feel compelled to arrive at any preordained conclusions. And I think we've got a fairly successful process in place. I participated in the tax study, which has not exactly come in for a resounding praise this morning, but I don't think that's because of the content of the study so much as, or even the process on the front end that went to putting it together. I think the points have been related to other topics. So, I feel confident that, if we structure this study carefully, that we can get the...give the consultant the free reign necessary to go out and objectively look at the system. That would be what my intention would be for this consultant or contractor, whoever that person might end up being is to say ignore the language of this, the fact that we made the transfer, that we want you to look at this as if none of this had happened and tell us what's the best way of structuring higher education in Nebraska to meet the needs of the entire population. But I think you should at least for a moment stop and think about what kind of message you're going to send with this vote. And if, in fact, your mind is made up and you don't really care what the contractor says, and you're going to do this, then I think it is inappropriate to vote for the amendment. Now I'm clearly on record as saying I want to give the consultant free reign to go out and look at our system and not feel bound by any preordained conclusions, and I intend to support the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Kristensen, please, followed by Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Question. Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Question has been called. Do I see five