

status of the law.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I understand that. What I'm telling you is that by statute we're going to be able to determine who gets to appeal to those courts. We're not taking that power out of our hands right now. It isn't a litmus test. If you vote for this, you're for labor; if you vote against it, you're against. That isn't true at all. It's totally consistent with where the bill and the resolution is at this point that the Legislature gets to decide if there is a court of industrial relations, the Legislature also gets to decide where those appeals are going to be. We're not denying those people appeals. And when Senator Chambers stands up and says we're denying labor appeals, we're not denying them appeal. It says right here they shall have appeals as provided by law. And whose going to decide that? We're going to decide that. We're not cutting off their appeals at all. And I would urge you to defeat the Chambers amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, please.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, thank you. Yes, Senator Kristensen. I'm kind of surprised you're arguing this one because the state labor court, we are the only state in the union that has a constitutionally authorized state labor court. The Legislature is given the authority, under the Constitution, to enact laws to create the court. But once that court is created, as is the Commission of Industrial Relations, there is in the Constitution an absolute mandate that appeals from that commission be to the Supreme Court of the state. There was a reason for that. I don't have the legislative history here, but I'm sure there was a pretty strong labor oriented reason for that provision at the time. Now, if we say that we are going to change that and provide that the appeal shall be to the appellate court, we are taking away from labor that right. Now we are also taking away from management that right, because either party may appeal. But we clearly are changing what is in the law now. It seems to me, well, just so long as when we vote on the Chambers amendment we know that we are, in fact, taking away a right. Now if we want to do that, we can vote no to the Chambers amendment. But if we....And that's our decision to make. But we are doing it. So, I think....

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Morrissey and Kristensen.