

advancement of the bill.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, I would. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Thank you for your patience, it's been a long day. Now I think there are several things that I probably want to talk about. You always like to respond to that last little phrase by the opponents or someone who doesn't want to vote for it. But I don't think that's appropriate at this point. And what I think, really, if I look back onto today, the discussion really is centered around that there has got to be a change. There wasn't much discussion that we shouldn't make some changes in our appellate process. Nobody stood up and was talking about the system is just fine the way it is. Senator Chambers is right, it's important, it's very important. This is one of the most far-reaching things we will do in the appellate court system. Hopefully, none of us will have to go to the Supreme Court, but I tell you we get touched every day by the Supreme Court. They decide how we value our ag lands. They determine how we're going to behave in our business relationships. They decide the very things about our own personal lives. They touch us every day. We don't know it but it's the rules of the game we live by. The people that I really appreciate are the people that have come and asked questions and the lay people. It's difficult for people who haven't been involved in the law. It's hard for them to stand up and say, well, I don't understand and, quite frankly, I'm going to volunteer my services, come up any time between now and Select File or Final Reading and I will sit down with you. There's a study that's been done in our appellate court system here that's been done and it's written in layman's language. I passed out the first two chapters to you. I think it's well written. But it examines expanding our court. It examines staying the way it is. And it's come up with some recommendations and one of them is that we need an appellate court, an intermediate appellate court, and the only way we're ever going to do that in this state is through a constitutional amendment. Now you've heard a lot of things about, you're going to take away my right, you're taking away my right. Look beyond that but look to what the right really is. The right is that judges in the trial level, they're human, they're like you and I and they make mistakes. Somebody needs to have an appeal. Somebody has the right to have that looked at, and if they have made a mistake, admit it. Judges make unpopular decisions, you bet they do. They make mistakes, you bet they do. We don't kill the messengers because of the...we don't like the message. If I don't like the way the Nebraska Supreme Court is going to