

your intent that this council would be under the public meetings law. Is that true or not true?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I'm assuming that this language is modeled after the NIFA board and if it is subject to the open meetings law then this entity would be subject to the open meetings law.

SENATOR BEUTLER: How about a little more direct answer to that question, like is it your intent that it would be under the open meetings law?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I...I do not intend to be evasive but you're asking me a rather technical question and I will not presume to create the law for an existing board or agency, the NIFA body, and whatever rules apply to it would apply in this instance.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Do you think this body should or should not be under the open meetings law?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: If I had to...without expressing what I think is any kind of legislative intent, if...I believe this kind of a body should be subject to the open meetings law but if it is...if it is not, we would have to amend the open meetings law to make it so.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, if you...do you believe that this language is ambiguous with regard to whether the council is under the open meetings law?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Quite frankly, that isn't a question that I have addressed and I think you would have to go back and review the open meetings law. As I recall, those open meetings law statutes are very inclusive and...but I cannot hazard a firm opinion without going back and reviewing them. I simply haven't done that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Senator Lamb, can you give me any better answer? Is it your intent that this council would be under the open meetings law?

SENATOR LAMB: Suits me, I have no objection. I don't care, any group can be under the open meetings law. I'm not...you know, I think that's a good one. I would have no objection to that. I think if, you know, as Senator Wickersham has pointed out,