

expand their school through construction, they've had a bond issue, then they can hire another janitor. This was in the...it's in the present law. This is allowed under present law and I'm reinstating this language, which is stricken in this bill, which will again allow these school districts to increase their costs for maintenance if they expand. I'll read...I'll just read it. It's on page 251 of AM5267, lines 16 through 24, and two lines on the next page, and this is what would be reinstated: Construction expansion or alteration of district buildings will cause an increase in building operation and maintenance costs of at least 5 percent. The department shall document the projected increase in building operation and maintenance costs and may allow a district to exceed its applicable allowable growth percentage by the amount necessary to fund such increased cost. The department shall compute the actual increased cost for the school year and shall, if needed, modify the district's applicable allowable growth rate for the ensuing school year. That's the total amendment. It reinstates that language which is in the present lid law, and it does exactly what it says. It allows the department to give permission for those schools to increase their costs by up to 5 percent if they expand. I would ask that this amendment be adopted.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Withem, followed by Senators Warner and Schmit. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, I'm tempted to think of "never met a tax he didn't like", "big spender". What's the other sort of rhetoric you're supposed to throw out here on these sorts of provisions? But I won't do that. Senator Lamb brings the amendment to you in good faith and what he wants to do is restore an original provision that was in LB 1059, in the lid provision of LB 1059. Probably in the global context of where we're speaking here today, not a major issue and not a major problem if it comes in. I cannot support it, however, and the reason I cannot support it is simply what has transpired to date on this bill and on the lid provisions of the bill. If you recall, first of all if you recall going way back when, when we passed the lid provisions that were in LB 1059 applicable to school districts we set up a 4 percent base sliding up to 6.5 percent, based upon previous spending pattern, and then we had some exemptions, things that we thought were worthwhile exemptions. One of those was we said to local school districts, if you passed a bond issue and you