

amendment...this amendment is before us because I think the Auditor needs something for those people to do because there's not now the...all the statutory authority and the business for those people to be doing. And I think I understand why it is brought forward in good faith, but I think the Legislature needs to make the proper policy decision on how we should do that. Just because the Auditor, State Auditor now has some people that he went out on his own accord and hired and, yes, when requested, the Auditor can do a performance audit on certain aspects of government, only when requested, right now there is not the proper authority for that extensive program that maybe the State Auditor would like to have. I think this amendment would give those people something to do and I guess I understand why maybe that would be a good thing to do, but I guess we should not be tempted by that reason, that rationale. I think the proper way to do this function in the Legislature is keep it in the Legislature. I think the State Auditor has existing financial audit functions in local government, as well as in state government, as well as compiling what we call the CAFR audit for the State of Nebraska and some of those things, unfortunately, in my opinion,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ..particularly the CAFR audits, there's been an ongoing battle between the Appropriations Committee and the State Auditor getting those monies appropriated and getting the Auditor to do that CAFR audit which, in his opinion, is not necessary. But I mean I guess I understand the need to be giving these people something to do, but I don't think we should be tempted on this floor. We should stick with the proper policy in LB 988, as it's presently introduced, and maybe we can, if those people who are working for the State Auditor and there's no performance audits for them to do, possibly we can look at hiring over here. But the proper line of chain of command is for the Legislature to review policies we enact, look at them and have our people look at them and make a decision on whether or not we need to change them and so, at this time, I'd rise to oppose Senator Schimek's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Before I go to the next speakers, there are some guests that I would like to introduce. First of all, under the south balcony there's two guests of Senator Schrock. It's his son, Tom Schrock, and his friend, Melany Jordan. Would you please stand and be welcomed