

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, perhaps we could extend our dialogue just a little, if that would be agreeable to you.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Sure.

SENATOR BEUTLER: As I read this, the delegates to the conference will propose, debate, and vote on elements of an action plan to restore checks and balances between the states and the national government. And they will be formalized into this thing called the States' Petition.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And then returned to the delegation's state for consideration by the entire Legislature. What does that envision? Does that mean before this is taken to the federal government as a representation of the State of Nebraska that we need to formally ratify the document?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, let's choose our words carefully. I think we need to approve. Ratify would tend to me to mean a legal procedure that would ratify a proposed amendment. This would be...

SENATOR BEUTLER: What is the purpose of this...of this consideration by the entire Legislature? What will happen or not happen depending on how we react?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: As I believe it to be, the action plan that is developed at this initial meeting of the Conference of the States will be taken back and put in some formal document, in terms of setting out what recommendations. What those are? I don't know. I don't think anybody knows in terms of what, you know, there is not an agenda out here ahead of time to say this is what we are going to push through, but let's say that there are ten recommendations of things that this conference thinks needs to be done. They bring those recommendations back. Before that is communicated to Congress in this States' Petition, this body will have to have the opportunity to vote on that and to approve that to take it back to Congress.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, what if we say, well, we like one through eight, but nine and ten don't represent us, don't take it back to Congress?