

the...no matter where the conference is held, they expect Governor Mike Leavitt from Utah and Governor Ben Nelson there because these are the two governors who are spearheading this. A little bit about the document that they intend to produce, they're talking about the delegates. The delegates will debate, and my amendment has nothing to do with debate, Senator Kristensen. You can talk about anything you want when you get together at this, if you manage to get this thing together. It doesn't stop anybody from talking. What it stops is from putting in this petition, this document that you intend to come up with, at this Conference of State Governments, it talks about what you cannot put into this document and you cannot put changes to the Constitution in this document. That is what my amendment does. It says the petition: These delegates will debate what type of long-term structural changes are needed in the federal-state relationship short of a constitutional convention. State delegations will vote on a States' Petition which will then be taken back for approval to the Legislature. The petition could include legislative and legal strategies and even draft amendments to the Constitution. That is in the Council of State Government's article. Here's another one. In the federal update from NCSL, the goal of this conference of states is to produce a plan in the form of a States' Petition for statutory and constitutional changes, to devolve authority from the national government to the states. That's in this article here. So what they intend to do in this petition document is to try to include amendments, draft amendments to the Constitution. It's very clear. But what I continue to say is, it's not the concern, yes, there will still be a ratification process should that be done. The concern for me is that these individuals are going to try to change the process that we now have in place that we change the Constitution of the United States with. It hasn't been done very often. The Constitution of the United States has been amended 27 times in over, I think it's 200 years. This is not an easy process right now. You have to have Congress, two-thirds of Congress and then you have to have three-quarters of the states. That's what we have in place now. What this group of people wants to do, and they state it very clearly in all of their documentations, is that...and I'll read it to you. State task forces and scholars have suggested possible constitutional remedies to clarify state powers under the Constitution. One idea is to add a clause to Article V, this is why Senator Kristensen's amendment is not going to be enough, that would put states on equal footing with the Congress in proposing a constitutional amendment. States