

I'm trying to use terms that I could...you and I could discuss, that would impinge upon the ability of that conference to discuss legitimate, long-term changes. Whether they're wise changes or not, we're still going to get a chance to visit about those and vote on at least twice, and so will the rest of the country. But I really think that this amendment would impinge upon the ability of that conference to fully discuss what needs to be done, because I...I may disagree with you, I think there are places where the federal government has overstepped their bounds. There are other places, obviously, that the Constitution is on their side and they win and I accept that fact. I would urge the body to reject the Chambers amendment. There are other amendments coming along and I do think we could do some changes to this that would be in the best interest of this Legislature...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek, followed by Senators Chambers, Wehrbein and Maurstad.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Amendment X in our Constitution states, the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people. In 1989, the Council of State Governments made a proposal, endorsed an amendment to the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution that stated, whether a power is one reserved to the states or to the people shall be decided by the courts. This is one of the groups that are calling for the Conference of States. In 1989, they endorsed an amendment to the Tenth Amendment saying that all of the rights of the people in the states would be thrown into the court system. That's the kind of amendments that I am concerned about. Senator Kristensen's examples are obvious examples, civil rights amendments, abortion, those kind of things that people understand; they're simple, they feel one way or another about them. Those are not the amendments that I am concerned about. The amendments that I am concerned about, as Senator Chambers read, and I know we're making a lot of people nervous with Senator Chambers and I agreeing so much. Somebody told me there was even a call into a radio show somewhere that said, what's going on, Chambers and Witek are agreeing on something. So I know we're making people nervous,