

Kristensen.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I'm not going to take my full five minutes. I've been listening carefully to Senator Chambers. I'm not sure what he is discussing, whether he's for or against the whole thing. But I wanted to say a few comments about why I am supporting this. I believe we have to give this a try. We've got many issues that are going on. There's a lot of cynicism among the American public today that are not sure what our role in government should be, are not sure if the federal government is even listening to us. Even in spite of the fact that there are some things going on in Washington, D.C. today that are attempting to respond, we obviously haven't responded to the degree, at this point, that many of us would like to see. I do not see, if this really is going to get in the process, I can't really see why this should be a problem and have to oppose it. It appears to me that this is an effort to look at it, to get together and come up with some ideas. I hate to think that we would presuppose what the end of the...what the final solution would be. I think there are enough safeguards in this, as I read it and hear others talk about it, that we are not going to end up with something that will give us a problem. There is going to be ample time for those of us to look at it back in our legislative bodies and to deliberate. I just see it as an opportunity for some to get together and discuss the very issues that bother us every day in terms of unfunded mandates in many areas, in the area of the immigration issues, for example, that our coastal or California and other states are having where the federal government appears to me is not really facing up to the issue, the area of the balanced budget. We have some issues that are there, this is to be a conference for process, as I understand it. So maybe we won't get into those issues, but certainly there are some issues that need to be faced that I don't see the federal government, at this point, really facing and really getting to the issues that we need to discuss. So I am going to support this LR 16. I don't know that some of these amendments, they're all good or all bad. Perhaps they are truly trying to clarify and that's fine, but I think we're going to get superfluous here pretty quick and we're going to be uncertain as to what is even in it. So at this point, even though I don't necessarily disagree with Senator Chambers' amendment, I'm going to oppose it simply so that we can move on with the issues. As I listened to his comments very carefully I sensed that I wasn't sure sometimes if you were supporting or