

we want to protect Nebraskans and yet if you keep it secret, if you say that nothing can be public record, nothing can be discovered or grabbed hold on in discovery that we want to keep the American public in the dark and so they can't even use it if they need to when they do file their court case. That's crazy. If you're going to go ahead and say to Nebraskans, we want to protect you from "illegal takings" that we're not quite sure we have any examples on and we know it doesn't refer to the federal level, but you know, if Nebraska did some time in the future do something, we want to protect you from it, you don't go at the same time and say we the government will look into it and we'll keep it secret. If Senator Bromm is correct, if, and I don't agree with him, but if he is correct that the Attorney General could do it anyway, then, Senator Bromm, all we have then is the perception, the public perception of what is the Legislature's position on this and Senator Bromm would have us do the following perception to the public. He would have us say, give the perception to the public that we're going to look into something and we don't want them to know. I would think Senator Bromm's position would be the opposite. Since he believes the Attorney General can do it anyway, then at least I would think in talking about all the ethics that we've had in the last couple of years that the ethical thing to do is if the Attorney General could do it anyway, we at least as a body need to step forward and say we believe it should be public information. What the Attorney General does is up to the Attorney General. It doesn't hurt what Senator Jones is trying to do, the adoption of this amendment. It does add the perception that we really care about Nebraskans and we want them to know the same things we know. And I will grant that if there is a court case, then at that point there probably is confidentiality between the attorney and the client, but we're not talking the court case here on this bill. It is good policy. It's an open policy. And I think for this body to proceed and defeat this amendment so that the bill would say that it's going to be closed to the public, we don't want them to know, they don't even deserve to know, they don't even have the right to know will bode well for the movement of this bill.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. You've heard the close on the amendment to the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Senator Bernard-Stevens. Thank you. There has been a request that the house go under call. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.