

President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: I choose not to, thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Engel. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers to open on his motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, when I look at the number of people who have signed this bill it tells me two things. First of all, this motion is not going to be successful. Secondly, the people on it don't know what the bill is. They were brought an alluring piece of legislation and told it's going to do great things and they all signed it, they all signed it. I became aware of this from listening to the discussion this morning. Senator Beutler put the right name on it. This is a political slush fund contrary to what Senator Engel said. There's nothing in here that says how the Governor shall spend this money. This little commission gets together and they converse, if you look on page 3, and it talks about some of these things that may be involved. Then you go to page 4 and in line 14 it says the commission shall establish principles and processes for using the fund consistent with the economic development priorities of the state as determined by the commission in cooperation with the Governor and the department. It doesn't say the Governor shall do anything. It doesn't say the Governor shall follow the lead of this commission. This is a fund by which a politician punishes enemies and rewards friends. It is one of the best subsidized campaign funds for a Governor sitting that could ever be contrived. And if it had been honestly labeled, if it had been honestly labeled, the people who signed it would not have signed it. But again, through subterfuge and misnaming it there are all these people on this bill and the Legislature will pass it, but the public needs to know what it's giving to any sitting Governor. The Governor alone, alone, if you look at page 4 starting in line 17, the Governor has the authority to give the final approval for all projects and activities which are established under the fund, the Governor alone. The Governor doesn't have to listen to anybody and before anybody stands on the floor and talks about how honest these politicians are and how if this commission exists the Governor is going to pay attention. The Legislature is being buffalooed by the Governor right now on this bill. You all's conduct establishes that you