

debate. I think it's a reasonable effort to do that. I hope that we will leave in there some of the provisions that ask these people to look at the system as a whole because, to me, it is silly to have a people...to have a group of people develop the expertise they're going to develop and then not have them free to advise us as to what their reflections may be on the system, I'd like to keep that part in there. So I hope everybody feels favorable about the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Kristensen, if I could...let me first say,...

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...Senator Kristensen, that I...I also believe AM158⁷ is an improvement but there are additional areas, and that's what I'm trying to bring out. I intend to vote for the amendment to the amendment, but I want to point out what I think...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: That's fine, sure.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...(inaudible) to it. Another concern, and this is similar to the original bill, the chief counsel has what appears to me in Section 11 quite a bit of power, including the ability to adopt and promulgate regulations, rules and regs for the management and administration of the commission.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Right.

SENATOR LINDSAY: I also, combining that with the prior section that allows for the chief counsel to be fired only for just cause, which takes it up to a little bit different level than serving at the pleasure of the commission. And I have a concern about whether we're not empowering the chief counsel, in effect, to be more powerful than the commission itself and whether it might be more appropriate simply to transfer these duties to the commission and allow them then to designate someone to do those duties.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, Senator Lindsay, can I take...

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yeah, yeah.