

on the issue is good. It's very important and I just kind of...I want to see everybody vote the right way and do the right thing. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Fisher. Senator Witek, your light is next.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I rise in support of both the Warner amendment and the motion to bracket this bill, and appreciate your ruling on allowing us to do so at this time. It's interesting to listen to everyone's comments on this and I guess what comes to my mind is what are we afraid of by going ahead with something like this, that we might actually get some cuts, maybe some deep cuts that some of us won't like or that you can't get a majority of people to agree with? I'm all in favor of having Appropriations Committee take a look at this. They're used to working with each other. They have worked some late nights. They've had some good discussions. They brought us something that they could agree on. I think they could go through some of those changes again. I hope that they will consider the amendments to the bill. I've got several that involve a little over \$2 million that I hope they will consider if they do something like this. And I have not, Senator Bernard-Stevens, I have not voted for the spending. I have consistently voted against the spending. I voted against Senator Engel's bill and I talked to him about it when I did so. These are...these are decisions that I've made even against spending that I wanted to do against groups that have come to me that I agree with. I have, in my head, thought, well, you can't give it to some and not to others and the overall concern for me was to keep the spending down and to keep taxes at a level where people can live with them because what we're having now is people leaving the state because they can't afford their taxes in the State of Nebraska, because we have such a small population, we have to be very careful about...about our spending and about that growth in state government that Senator Jensen talked about that you can see if you look over some of these statistics. So I am all in favor of allowing the Appropriations Committee to take another look at this, knowing that they have the ability to go through and cut whatever needs cutting and I will support them on whatever they bring, even if it's something that I find difficult to support, I've always supported them. I will support anybody on this floor who wants to cut spending, because I think it has to be done and if this is the way to do it and one way to do it, I say go ahead and