

even know what all is in the amendment. It doesn't...that's not what's the issue in my view, it's the question of can a committee pull issues together and, yes, they have some diversity, but in the end, as I understand it, they deal with recreation and there is some tie-in, and that's what the ruling was. In my view that's adequate for us to go forward. And even if it wasn't, again in the past, for all the years I've been here, we allowed committees the flexibility to bring the issue before us. Now you may reject the amendments, you may reject particular parts of the amendments, you may object to whatever particularly comes before us, that's fine, but don't object to allowing a committee the freedom to bring the issue to the floor in this manner. Now I know in the past we've...we've...we've always been concerned about germaneness, and we've had some flexibility. But we're nowhere near what some states do, or in the Congress where I still remember the black lung disease bill that got amended to include the congressional pay raise. I mean that obviously is way afield from anything we're talking about here. There's absolutely no sort of congruity there. But we are, I think, much more on course and have been very careful about at least having some subject matter that's in like mind when we bring amendments to the body. I am continuing to feel that we have to allow for that. We don't need a straitjacket on the Legislature. On the other hand, we don't...I think we have protections for having the extreme that we saw in some of the amendments in Congress. Another thing I want to emphasize to you is as people talk about bill limits, and that's an issue that's going to come up before this Legislature, if you don't like what you see here and you put bill limits on, you'll see a whole lot more bills coming in like this. Now those of us that were around years ago when we had bill limits will remember we would take four or five bills and throw them into one bill because we only had ten bills we could introduce, so we'd load them up with everything that came close and bring them to the Legislature. We had a lot of bills that were very similar to this situation because we just were limiting ourselves on the bills. We have allowed for a lot more bills to be introduced. When I first came in it was 500 and some, now we're talking 800 some. But the reason is we don't have the bills all jammed together, we allow them to be split out. But we have a separate hearing on them, then we allow a committee or we allow the Legislature to bring them together and package them and put them forward.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.