

Wehrbein. And may I ask the body if we could keep it down a little bit. It is very difficult for members to hear the speakers. Senator Wehrbein, you are recognized.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, I think it's a very logical thing to do, Senator Bohlke's amendment. It's Senator Bohlke's bill. I felt it was a...I hate to use the word efficient but at least it's a way to get at the nub of the issue, and I don't think Senator Chambers particularly liked my amendment either (laughter), so I just substituted one amendment that he didn't like for another amendment that he doesn't like, but at least this one is...has got several issues in it that I think the body should discuss as areas that several have worked on. I have not been personally involved in most of those but it just seems a logical substitution. I think it does help the body move forward in the waning days and some are interested in doing that and perhaps some are not. I'm happy to be interested in moving forward on some of these issues. I think they have a positive effect. That's the kind of thing I'm looking for. I think it's appropriate that we allow the substitution and I would urge your vote accordingly.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Bohlke, followed by Senators Chambers, Hall, Maurstad, Wesely, Crosby and Dierks.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. You heard the statement that there are 40 amendments on the bill. As of yesterday, there were actually nine amendments and so, clearly, the intention, and that's fine, Senator Chambers said he was going to the wall on this bill and I certainly believed him, but the number of amendments filed is an indication that we may not be able to get once again to the real issue and important issues in the bill. That's why I think since that has occurred it is particularly important now to substitute at this point to get to some of the subject matter that I said I thought was extremely important. It was important to Senator Crosby. It was important to Senator Wehrbein. It was important to Senator Beutler, Senator Wesely, Senator Pirsch and Senator Day. Those are what we did in trying to bring together this amendment at this point in the debate so that we could discuss those issues. And I know that...and, Senator Chambers, as I said before, he's the one on the floor that said it was going to be very, very important to him to have a rural county included. We did some work and a rural county is included. That's part of this