

those are areas that maybe even if we don't necessarily seal off those areas completely with this bill, we at least put a doubt in people's mind, employees minds of what is part of...what can they now release to the public, what can they not release. We're going into an area that has been very open and accountable because of the Public Records Law and we're adjusting it and I think senators should be aware of that, I think they should be aware of the motivations for doing that, I think they should be aware of the scope of the bill. My amendment would simply narrow the scope of that bill to the degree that is already talked about within the area of Public Records Law, those areas that we already have in statute, they would still be able to have accessibility to those records that are specifically talked about in statute already. You're not taking anything away. You say that yourself that you're not going to take anything away. Well I'm making it so that you really don't take anything away, so that it's not just rhetoric, that it's the language of the bill, that you're not taking anything away and that...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...this is adopted, those areas that are still described in the Public Meetings Law will still be open and those other areas beyond that, that are in the working papers, will be sealed off as you want them to be. So I hope people will seriously consider this amendment and take the time to read it over and just take a little time to realize what this bill will do. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Hall, followed by Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Again, I rise in opposition to the amendment and to the rhetoric and whatever else is, I guess, behind the proposal. The Exec Board dealt with this, had a public hearing on it and all the concern and problems that were espoused in Senator Witek's speech and the other speeches, I guess. Nobody came to the party, nobody raised these concerns. As a matter of fact the auditor didn't come. He sent his information and frankly stated that...or one of his representatives did that they didn't want to get anywhere near the bill, they didn't have any problem with it, would we make these changes. Those changes were adopted unanimously by the Exec Board, we advanced the bill out without opposition and that's why it ended up on consent calendar. It was basically a