

bill limits. They get a separate hearing, people understand what's going on, they can respond to that. And after we get a good sense that people are okay on an issue, we can then go forward and package them, go forward. And, yes, it's a little harder to follow, but the public had a chance, at the beginning and at the start of the discussion on the issue, to know what was happening and to be a part of that. My point is you start early on with those kind of packages, with what would have been five or six separate bills being one, and then you end up obscuring from the public what is happening with legislation and making it harder for them to track through. So I have always opposed bill limits. I think what they also...what they also ended up doing were finding individuals carrying bills for others. There would be... If you had an idea for a bill but your ten bills were used up, back then, you'd go to somebody else and they'd carry the bill. Well, that really wasn't a fair situation. They got stuck with carrying a piece of legislation that wasn't their own, and the true sponsor wasn't identified, and the whole thing was just not up and up-front with the public as to who was carrying what and what the issues were. So, I again feel that the idea of bill limits, it's a bad idea; it's a popular idea. You go back to the public and they all think it's a wonderful idea. And what that means is when they come and ask you to introduce a bill, I talked to one colleague who said if a constituent comes and asks me to introduce a bill and it's a reasonable bill, I will introduce that on their behalf. And many of us try to do that, as much as we can. That's going to be gone, you're not going to be able to do that. When you got bill limits in there you're going to have to really, really recognize that the public's access is going to be tough, and you're only going to take those bills that have the muscle behind them before you go forward with it. So, I think for the common citizen they actually lose by bill limitations, not gain and being able to follow legislation and being able to have their ideas introduced by senators. So, we've heard these arguments before. I don't know how much longer we'll consider this amendment, but I just want to reiterate again there's a reason we don't have bill limits and there's a reason we shouldn't reimpose them, and definitely we should not reimpose them in the constitution.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Warner, followed by Senators Coordsen, Bohlke, Crosby, Beutler, Chambers, Kristensen, Wehrbein, Schimek and Robinson.