

amendment for now. And should the bill move on, then I will consider it. But right now I just want to pull it, but I'm going to leave it on the desk so I won't lose it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: It is so ordered. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek, your light is next.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I have some rather startling observations this morning. If you've been listening to the floor debate and the conversation going on you'll discover that once again Senator Chambers and Senator Witek are on the same side of an issue. And if you'll listen even more closely you'll discover that I'm on the same side of the issue with both of them. So I think that's sort of an unusual alliance here. But anyway, I have some questions, kind of rhetorical in a way, but I might like to press Senator Brown on them at a later moment. What I guess I don't understand about this bill is what it's really going to accomplish. And, you know, what I keep hearing is that we need to move in a new direction with the Public Service Commission. An area that certainly stands out and that all of us are cognizant of is the whole area of telecommunications. And I do believe that that should come under the purview of the Public Service Commission. But what I don't understand is why we have to have this legislation to make changes like that. It seems to me that we could give the Public Service Commission direction in that respect already. And what I'm afraid of is that what this bill will do, will do away with an entity that the people have been able to look to as someplace they can go when they have a protest or feel that they've been treated unfairly. And if you remember, and I think Senator Brown outlined this on the floor the other day, this bill or this commission came about primarily because the farmers felt they needed protection from the railroads and the railway rates. And it has traditionally been a place where the public could go. If you divide the functions of the Public Service Commission into a number of different bureaucracies, there will be no identifiable place for the people to go, there will be no elected official to hold responsible, and that does concern me. The other thing that concerns me is that this could potentially be a fight in the Legislature every couple of years. Let's assume that this amendment got on the ballot, that we took the Public Service Commission out of the constitution and then we tried to decide, on the floor of the Legislature, what to do with this entity.