

stay out of here, we don't want you in here, we'll see you next session when we need some changes in statute, and that's about all the involvement that you need to have. So I'm saying let's strike this exemption from the public meeting laws, it's unnecessary anyway, and let's allow as many people, including ourselves, including elected officials, whether it be the Auditor, or the Attorney General, or anybody who would want to be involved in this to be involved, instead of a bunch of political appointees of the Governor who are heads of these departments, restructuring the government and the state of Nebraska without our involvement. And not only without our involvement or even asking us to be involved, but saying keep out with this language. So I would ask for your adoption of this amendment to strike this language, it's unnecessary now, so it is not necessary to begin with. But it really speaks volumes to me by the people who are doing this restructuring effort that says we don't want anybody involved but the people we pick, which is very immature and very dangerous because they will be restructuring 1.6 billion, probably more than that if you adopt LB 1059, 1.6 billion and 6,000 people, and they will be affecting the people in my district that receive their services from these agencies. So I do have an interest here, and I want to have an involvement, either myself or with my staff or individuals from the Legislature involved in this. And I don't just want somebody who's in charge or thinks they're in charge to tell me, oh sure, you can be involved, but then tell me, when I come to the meeting, sorry, this meeting is exempt from the public meeting laws so you can't be involved. You know we're given these little power people, the power to tell everybody who can be in their club, and I think that's wrong and I think it's dangerous and I won't be a part of it. So I want to strike this language from this bill and make you aware that it's here and give you the opportunity to help me strike it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Withem would move to amend the amendment, Madam President. (Withem amendment, FA485, appears on page 1030 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Withem to open on his amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, members of the body.