

people who will be making those changes should be watched, should be involved, we should be involved, we're the elected officials to be involved in that. If they're coming... I look in their little PR piece here and it said, representatives of the partnership effort and the labor unions will meet regularly. It doesn't say anywhere that they'll meet regularly with the Legislature while they're putting this together. It says that they will hold information sharing meetings with state employees. It doesn't say that they will hold information sharing meetings with taxpayers. It says that they will have a first round of public forums in communities across the state eliciting input for system outcomes. And these meetings would take place in January or February. That's after we get the plan. That's after we get the plan. This... and even if it were for this year, all they're doing is asking for people to make comments. They're not making policy. And it also says that they'll have meetings in May to illicit more information. I've been to public meetings, I've listened to people. But the people who will be making the policy are these policy cabinet people, and they are not elected officials, they are all appointed people by the Governor, who is an elected person, but that's down to one. I think if we're asking the state of Nebraska to restructure six thousand people and almost \$2 billion, more than one elected official should be involved in the actual policy making before they come to us with a plan next January and ask us to approve it. There is no reason to have this exemption in here because they don't have it now. They are asking you for something that they don't have or even need now, and they won't have the use for it or the need for it after they do this. The very fact that they think that they will need to be exempt tells you that they don't want us involved. They don't want us involved in their actual policy discussions, not the public meetings that they're inviting everybody to, but the policy discussions. Those are the meetings that I want to be in on. That's where the real decisions are being made. And yet if you adopt this language and don't take it out with my amendment, you are giving them something that they don't even have now. We can still go sit in a meeting now with these directors when they get together and talk about this restructuring. If you adopt this language, we shut ourselves out. We shut out the elected people who are supposed to be watching out for the people who elected us to be here, but we go ahead and adopt this language, we won't be involved until we get the plan. We might be able to sit in on a public discussion, but on an actual policy