

discussion they can shut the door on you and say, you can't be here. I think that's very dangerous for us to do something like that. And, yes, I do think it's a very few appointed individuals who would think that they can make these decisions better than elected officials can. And I would say that the public elects us and trusts us to make these decisions. And with their trust, I am trying to strike this exemption out of here so that some of us can be involved in this process before these policy decisions are made or as they're being made, not have some plan handed to us next December that said, this is how things are going to be done, and have it come through the Legislature quickly again because it's a political piece. I believe...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...that's what's going to occur. I'm trying to stop that from happening. And, yes, I do believe it's being done very secretly and not involving people who are elected to be involved, because I have looked at the letters from this group, I did go to the meeting yesterday, asking some questions, and people did not have answers for me at that time on portions of this bill, the very people who wrote it. So I don't think they need an exemption from the public meeting laws. And beyond that, I don't want to give them one because I want, as an elected official, to be as involved in this process or have my staff or members of the Legislature involved in this process because it involves an awful lot of people and an awful lot of money, and it's not just something that we should be apprised of next December. I would ask for your support of my amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. The question before the body is the adoption of the Witek amendment to LB 1044. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. There's been a request, Senator Witek has requested a record vote. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: (Read record vote. See pages 1030-31 of the Legislative Journal.) 2 ayes, 23 nays, Madam President, on the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Witek amendment fails. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Dierks would move to amend with AM3512, Senator.