

should do and I do wish us to be careful as we go through not only the debate of these bills, but the debate of other issues in the Legislature that we are cognizant of the fact that we really do not know in all cases what they ought to do at the local level or exactly how they ought to do it; that they still have that better base of information; that they still have that better base of connection with their constituents; that they still have the tools, the capability, the intelligence, the good will, the desire to accomplish public purposes that is necessary to effectively conduct the business of government and to do it in ways that are efficient and effective for their constituencies. But I will support Senator Beutler's amendment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Beutler, I will ask you this question. Then, if Senator Wickersham has some thoughts he'd like to add, I will put it to him too. I see the word "adjoining" in your amendment and I see it throughout this bill and what I want to know is does that word mean that the counties only have to touch each other at some point or must they share a common...is it envisioned that they'll share a common border of a certain measure? In other words, the corners might only touch. Would that be sufficient to make them adjoining?

SENATOR WILL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That would be sufficient in my opinion, Senator. I would look for the broadest examination.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Senator Wickersham, would that be your understanding of the term also, just so the counties touch at some point?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right. Thank you. And, as I stated, I will support Senator Beutler's amendment and I'm not too concerned with the aspect of the question or problem raised by Senator Wickersham on Senator Beutler's amendment. It's what's