

actually if there's an obvious need it could be done now, I guess that's...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I guess, Senator, I thought this process was about something different. If this process is about business as usual, then I guess we shouldn't have gone through all this 208 process and that kind of thing. What we were trying to do is come up with a process whereby we may give some added impetus to and encourage studies that might lead to greater efficiencies, consolidations or efficiency of combining of services or whatever. Yes, they can do it on their own. Counties can do it on their own. Cities can do it on their own. Everybody can do it on their own. But somehow, what this was all about, as far as I was concerned in part, was to encourage that process and to push that process along so that we get these inefficiencies. And I have to tell you honestly, Senator, I'm not sure I'm interested in property tax relief unless we're going to make this whole system a little more efficient. And I don't know how to do that. I mean you could mandate it, none of us want to do that. You can say nothing at all, put nothing in these bills, and then nothing more will happen. Or you can start to try to think of devices that encourage these bodies to look at things that bring up ideas, that force ideas up. This study will force ideas up. Whether this Legislature adopts them and proceeds with them or not is another matter,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...but at least, at least there will be some experts telling us what the best five ideas are for making things more efficient in this area. And I thought that's what we were doing in every area, and I guess I'm surprised to hear that, no, we don't want all these ideas from these different areas for efficiency. Let's have business as usual. I mean that's not the way this study started and I don't think that's what the property tax study is all about. I think a major part of it is getting to efficiencies in government and, obviously, we can have reasonable differences about how you get there. But if you don't have your experts, the Natural Resources Commission, in fact, study the question, then who is going to study it? I mean the Natural Resources Commission...Committee, every time we try to do something, you know, it always comes back around to us about what do you know and what does the commission think and where are these recommendations coming