

know that the reason we're not making this decision now is probably much more political than that. And I fail to see how this amendment is even the least bit honest. It tells me that the individuals who are pushing this want to make it look like they don't have every reason to believe that we need a new facility and they want to justify these temporary modules that they've all approved of, when I have guys telling me from the prison that these temporary modules are extremely dangerous to the people who work in the prisons. I think it's...I'm coming to the conclusion that it's extremely irresponsible of us to even ask them to work in these facilities with violent individuals in these facilities. They are afraid really to do so, as I would be, any thinking human being would be. So we do have all the prison population projections that we need to make this decision. We probably know exactly pretty close to how much it would cost. There's a lot of testimony in front of the Appropriations Committee that we also have access to from Harold Clarke, the head of our Corrections who's already said that we need this facility, so we already have all of this information. We...it says any capital construction projects necessary. We already know we have to have a capital construction necessary. Who we kidding here? (Laugh) I mean why are we doing this? This is a completely political amendment here and I don't know who's been talking to who and why Senator Wehrbein, the head of our Appropriations Committee, I'm sorry but I don't know why you've agreed to put this in and bring this...dredge this up again, but you know and I know we have all this information available to us. The only decision that we haven't made that we should be making is to start a real facility this year, and people won't do it because it's too political and they won't admit that they want that 55 million dollars to spend on other programs when we should be spending it on a prison facility. And the across-the-board cut that I gave the Appropriations Committee that would have given us 93 million dollars to build this facility was killed in committee. So that's the reality, to me anyway, of the situation and to make it look like, adopting this amendment, that we don't have any of this information available and that we need to tell the Department of Corrections to get it all together...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ..for us when we already have it all together is a waste of their time and I won't ask people who are very busy