

SENATOR DIERKS: You have 555 or 554, Mr. Clerk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator, I'm sorry, it's 554.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Speaker or Mr. President, is the Speaker still in the body?

SENATOR COORDSEN: I do not know. Senator Withem, are you in the body?

SENATOR DIERKS: I would like to ask Senator Withem a question, if I may.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Yeah, would you respond to a question, please, Senator Withem?

SPEAKER WITHEM: It depends. I am not an expert or a participant on the bill itself. If it has to do with scheduling matters, I'd be happy to respond.

SENATOR DIERKS: I'd like for you...I suspect, Mr. Speaker, that we are heading for cloture on this legislation. I wonder if you could explain to the body the cloture process as you define it, as you would define it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator, every time I have to re-read the rule, but from memory I believe what we do, the principal introducer of the bill, which would be the chair of the Natural Resources Committee, Senator Beutler, after the bill has been debated eight hours would be entitled to file a motion. Once that motion is filed and the Clerk is recognized to read it, we take an immediate vote on that matter. We then, as I recall, and I have to check this, we vote on the pending matter, which could be an amendment to the committee amendments, we would then vote on the committee amendments and we would then vote on the advancement of the bill. None of those, there would be no debate, no challenges, no intervening parliamentary activity as that goes on. That's my best memory, Senator.

SENATOR DIERKS: The number of votes for cloture is 33, is that right?

SPEAKER WITHEM: That is the number that is needed for the