

power to create policy. If you have a problem with county government, you should go to your county board, your governing board, and they should have the authority and they should have the responsibility to come and answer your requests and be able to respond to them. They cannot currently do that now, they cannot currently do that now. And what you have done is you have a form of government that's extremely flat, that has no head, that has very difficult to get any response from because there is nobody you can really go to, to figure out who you need to get the things done that you want done. Senator Lynch, I would say that this is not a Scotts Bluff County problem. Scotts Bluff County has its problems, I will grant you, but they don't have anymore problems than any other county does. And to say that this legislation has to be passed just for the benefit of Scotts Bluff County, I would turn that around and say, Senator Lynch, just because you don't want it in Douglas County, please don't keep the rest of the state from getting it. There may be a need for this and Douglas County may not need it, a lot of other counties may not need it or even want it, but it is necessary, I think, to have it out there. This amendment does not run contrary, Senator Kristensen,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HILLMAN: ...to anything that you're trying to do. If you're going to change any of the elected officials to appointed, if you're going to change anything in county government through this amendment, you will need a vote of the people and they will need to know what is going on and whether or not they should choose to change it. My point is if you plan to do anything in consolidation and budget control, you better allow counties the tools to be able to do business as they see they can best do it in their county. And by restricting them from any type of authority when it comes to looking at budgets and budget control, having any kind of input that can bring the county together to look at consolidation and mergers,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR HILLMAN: ...if you're looking.... And I will punch my button for more.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Engel.