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LB 1405

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Bohlke.

**SENATOR BOHLKE:** Thank you, Mr. President and members. I think my comments will follow some of what Senator Bromm was saying, but when I came to the floor today, I said to my seatmate, Senator Hudkins, I'm not sure I'll put my light on. Actually, as many of you have indicated, I am leaving. I won't be back. I don't serve on the Judiciary Committee. However, I've had reporters call and ask my opinion and so that's been out there. Before we even came into session, I said I didn't believe that this belonged on the floor of the Legislature. I still believe that. I believe the forum is with the regents, the Board of Regents. I believe the good people of this state have the ability to read in the newspapers the information that is brought forward. I think they have the ability to know who their regents are, and I think they have the ability to let them know how they feel on the issue, and when they go to the ballot box, they can either agree or disagree with those regents. I also believe when the university comes to them and asks for money through the foundation, they can make a choice at that time. They could give them more money for research. They could say I disagree with you, I'm not going to give you money. That's one issue. But that didn't happen, it is here, and now what...the reason I'm speaking is because I think there is one issue that's not been stated and one that I feel very strongly about, and that's the fact that by the Judiciary Committee choosing the process that they have chosen and placing this on the floor of the Legislature, we have been disingenuous with a large number of people in this state. The mail I have received from my district has not been hate mail. It's been people who feel very passionately on this issue, both sides. Because it did not come to the floor until March 24th, because it was not prioritized until the 24th priority bill, anyone in this body realizes that through three stages of debate, when there is so much opposition, we were not going to pass the green copy. And for those people in the lobby or anywhere else who led and gave the people false hopes that we were going to accomplish that this session I think was very disingenuous, and that's where I take issue. Now the other would be that we need to have this discussion on the floor of the Legislature, and that's been what other people had said. My ans...my response to that was, to