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FLOOR DEBATE

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you're going to have to get elected to Congress and you're going to have to go to Washington D.C. and you're going to have to pass the changes there. We can't do that. So everybody that wants to put statutory language in our books to fix that, we can't do it. All we can do is work with what we have, what authority we have. And within our power, we can make it fair for people to pay for their costs, so to speak. Now, there has been opposition to this, but it has come from outside. It did come from outside the state. And they in fact have tie-in lines, phone lines, where people, they'll connect you right through, they don't even have to dial, and they can get through to your office. They can mail postcards on their behalf. And when most of those people call in you talk to them and you ask them if they understand, they don't have a clue of what the bill does. And when we talk to them and explain what the bill does, they say, oh, well, that sounds okay to me; well, that sounds fair. In fact, I've had people who were very, very antiunion, historically, who have called me with concerns. And when I told them and read them the language of the bill, they said, oh, that isn't what I was told; I'm fine with that. So the fear has been created, but the fear is not from the language of LB 226. Now, Senator Cunningham did have a question about grievances. And on the left side, you were talking about wage scale. Outside representation can go in and they can challenge for you, as a nonunion employee, if in fact you are not being paid according to the contract. But what they couldn't do is create a separate contract so that I had one group of employees being paid this amount, and another group being paid this amount, which would be a nightmare for the employer. That's what exclusive bargaining rights are about, so that we don't have maybe six, seven, eight, a hundred different, you know, decisions on what an employee doing the same job on the same shop floor is paid. So that's what they're limited, they're limited by the terms of the contract, but they certainly can defend you if in fact you don't feel you're being defended by the union. You can do that. I don't think that you'd want to or need to because, quite honestly, the union has a vested stake in making sure that the contract is carried out according to its terms, and so certainly they are going to want to do that. Now, 99 percent of the people who contacted your office are not even affected by this bill.