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SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I think that's a fair statement of my concern, if that's a legitimate concern.

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, let me suggest to you that I think another way to look at a Class VI system is it provides an avenue for reorganization that may not have been used, or may not be immediately contemplated for use. For example, suppose you had a group of small K-12 systems, were considering, or being forced to consider, however you might describe it, some sort of a reorganization merger because of declining student numbers, or whatever it might be. A Class VI system would offer them a possibility that each one of those K-12's could become a Class I, that is, a part of a Class VI system, so that you might have two or more K-12 systems that would become a Class VI system that had really an elementary...well, each district could retain its elementary school. There may be a new high school, or one of the existing districts form the high school, so that in a way, this type of arrangement would provide for at least reorganization or consolidation of the high school parts of several districts, through the organization of a Class VI system. So I would just point out, I think it's...my belief is, it's a good idea to keep that option open, in the event...and I can't give you a specific example of where I know this is about to happen or being discussed. But I think it is a vehicle alternative, and would in fact lead in the direction of consolidation, reorganization, restructuring, rather than away from it. So I'd invite your response.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, let me just ask you, are you absolutely convinced that if this is opened up in this manner and made easier, that the response will be as you described, and that others will not take advantage of it for different purposes?

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, "absolutely convinced" is maybe a high standard. I would tell you that it would be my belief and expectation that it would be used in the direction of reorganization toward a fewer number of K-12's than toward the