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FLOOR DEBATE

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good idea. And I was just bringing up the committee statement as came up to speak here. But I don't see anything wrong with it. I think it's needed. I think we need this to clarify our situation. In my specific example, it is a problem. And it does do with firemen the very thing that the bill is addressing here. So I'm rising in support of this, simply because it helps clarify the situation we occasionally get into on being a border county there and having mutual aid agreements. And of course, when a fire starts out there on the state line and it goes one way or the other, the firemen really do not pay much...the don't pay any attention to county...or, state lines. So this would clarify the situation. And they'd have to decide who...which state they were going to file a claim in. And of course, Senator Beutler did a good job explaining the amendment before we came to this point. So I rise in support of the amendment, and return...and also, of course, support returning the bill to...or, the bill to Select File for this specific amendment. With that, I would return the rest of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to clarify that there was one negative vote in committee. This is the type of issue that tends to become bifurcated between employer and employee, business and labor. As you know, more often than not, way more often than not probably, on these kinds of things I tend to be on the side of the employee. But you know, I think there are times when you really have to look at something the way it is, and say, this part of it is right or wrong, regardless of who it happens to benefit. And what we're doing here in a strict legal sense should not be controversial. It follows a long, long traditional legal doctrine, as I mentioned earlier, called *res judicata*. And it is the court system's effort to impose order on the whole legal system. You have your case heard once. You abide by the decision of the judge and the jury. You can't have it heard over and over again, or take it to another place and have it heard again. You have to do something to conserve judicial resources, and to devise a system that's fair to everybody. And that's basically what this bill is doing, is