## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

January 31, 2005 LB 261

about doing some good? I mean, what about the size of government, how we spend our time, how we spend our energy, how we expect the volunteers that we may ask to do this instead of the commissioners to be spending their energy; what's important, what's a priority? We can't just keep doing things because we've done them that way. I think when the question, who is harmed comes up, it's the Legislature. We're not willing to take on...I mean, I took on eliminating a few commissions a couple of years ago and filled the hallways and caused a lot of late night meetings for people. It's really tough to reorganize and reinvent. I think this may be the first volley that we have this session in a series of things that we have to look at because of the way we structure government, and the way we're going to have to say, what is a priority, what is most important, how do we spend our time? Maybe we've got a little bit of mileage in there, but I'm telling you, I sat on a county board and chaired the budget committee for six of the eight years I was there, and we looked at every nickel and dime that we spent. What is a priority? The counties are telling us, you know, from county government, their governing board is saying we shouldn't need to do this anymore. We continually, on the committee I serve on, ask people to tell us what don't you need to do anymore, what is not a priority, what is not important. They tell us that and then, you know, we've got to hesitate and we're going to have different opinions on it and some of you have heard from different people. But I think the bigger issue here is how are we going to reorganize and be a more efficient government? How are we going to take these proposals as they come forward and say, is this the best way we should be operating? I think we need to streamline. I think we need to become more efficient. We don't need to bog down. I'm going to support Senator Stuhr in her efforts.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Chambers, there are no further lights on. Do you wish to close on your motion?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I'm going to close in on something before I pull that motion. If we really want to streamline government, we know how to do that. We don't even have to think about it. We could take that book that Senator