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the mike. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Erdman, followed by Senator Beutler, Schimek, and Smith. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, as a newly selected member to the Performance Audit Committee, I've had to learn quite a bit about how the process actually works. And I would offer to Senator Beutler that the amendment before you is not an insult or a question of the work product of those members on the audit committee or the audit staff. I don't see that as that whatsoever. And if that was the case, then Senator Beutler shouldn't be bringing his amendment, which also brings up the standards that would be required. I think what we're both trying to accomplish, or what both sides are trying to accomplish, is that we should hold them to the standards that generally are approved and accepted throughout the state, or throughout the United States, for different levels of auditing. So it's a matter of ensuring compliance. And I think as we look at this war between the executive branch, between the legislative branch, we have a responsibility to be as good, if not better, at what we hold the standards to be, in order to ensure the information that we're submitting, the information that we're presenting, meets those standards. And if in the event that that's the case, then the information that would be distributed or gained through the Performance Audit Committee would be able to be used by other auditors, and vice versa. And so that's part of, I think, the value of adopting either Senator Smith's amendment or Senator Beutler's amendment, is it validates what it is that we are asking to have done, and that is to have the same standards, the general accounting standards, held for our employees in the legislative performance audit side, as well as any other auditor who may want to seek any confidential information. And the question is the timing. Should it be done...should they meet those standards before they go and access that information? Or should we allow them to access that information and then, after the fact, ensure that they actually did comply? I'm going to err on the side of Senator Smith. And here's why. We look at the requests that are before the Performance Audit Committee