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LB 542

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Schimek. And, Senator Schimek, I tend to agree with you. What I was asking those questions for is to show that the language in this bill means different things to different people. If we were constructing or contriving a resolution, it wouldn't make that much difference because it's not binding. But we're putting language into the statute, and those of us on the floor who are going to vote on this legislation, if we vote for it, we're voting for something about which we do not agree. The language that is in the bill could be too restrictive, it could be too wide open, depending on who is going to do the interpreting. But if we are going to lay out standards, as this bill attempts to do, we should make sure that proper guidance is given to the people on this commission and that guidance should be designed to show them what it is the Legislature is looking for them to make a comparison to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...or with, and I don't think "nearby states" tells us anything. As Senator Flood was saying, to make a point, the term "state" can mean any political...politically organized geographic area, and maybe "geographic" wouldn't even have to be in it. But "state" means more than these political entities within the continental United States, and then you throw in Alaska and Hawaii. So words do have a meaning. And when you're drafting what amounts to at least semitechnical language, there should be something with a bit more precision, at least, than what we have here. The purpose of the comparison, it seems to me, if recommendations are to be made...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: And you may continue, because your light is up, and we're now on your time, not Senator Schimek's.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Since the admonition is made that recommendations should flow from this comparison, there has to be something in common between or among the things being