

and I must say I've had ongoing concern about the NEOC, have tried to help them get additional staff, have dealt with a number of bills affecting them, but...and I, for one, am frequently an amender of bills on Select File, but I usually...at least there's some chance for the public to have comment, some chance for reaction, some consensus that's been formed, and I feel uncomfortable, I guess, at this time with an amendment that we haven't got all parties familiar with a chance to look at, a chance to respond to, a chance for input to. Even as good as it sounds, I guess I'm just a little uncomfortable about this, and I just wonder if others who maybe are feeling the same way. I am not quite sure how to proceed, there would be a way to have a chance for input between now and the time the bill would pass. I don't know if there is an A bill that would slow up the bill. I just wonder about the chance for the public to have some input onto this change, because it is a substantial change in the process over there, and that is an important entity. So that's only my concern, and I don't have any more to add other than that seems to be something we ought to look at.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, I will be brief. I just rise to say that I support this amendment. I think that the complainants that I have talked with over the last year and a half would support this amendment. I have sat in on some of the same meetings that Senator Hohenstein has, and I have heard from a great many people on this issue, and I know that the process bogs down, and I know that at the end of it there is often nothing. So I am fully supportive of taking this step and, of course, we won't always know, Senator Wesely, how it is going to work until it actually works. But, to me, it looks like something that will be very positive for everybody. So with that, I would just urge your support.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Landis and Hohenstein.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Hohenstein, I, too, am delighted that you have taken this on, but I suppose I would be even more ecstatic if I believed that all the problems with that particular agency related to their procedures only, but I'm glad you've addressed the procedures. Let me just ask you a couple of questions. I