

Senator Chambers is talking about, the federal government, Federal Congress would never have passed what they passed because there would be direct negotiations between the state or between the Indian tribes and the federal government. But putting the states in the middle, we have an obligation, it seems to me, to state what our public policy is, and that's all we have done in the Ashford amendment. And by taking it out, we've sort of, quite frankly in my opinion, stated a contrary policy. No matter what verbiage we put into the record, we are taking out our public policy and we are saying we don't want to be bad faith bargainers. Those are two separate issues. They are two separate issues, and I really think it is bad policy at this point to pull out that language, after all of this debate and this discussion before this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I first was going to stand in opposition to the Hohenstein amendment, and now I don't know where I am, so I guess I would like to ask a question or two. I, too, have the same conflict raised by Senator Chambers and Senator Wesely of the sovereignty versus the gambling issue. But I also have... I am also conflicted in knowing what to think about the legal arguments here. I think both of the legal arguments you could buy into very easily and so it is hard to know what the right thing to do. But beyond that, I also have a conflict over if you accept one legal opinion, then that conflicts with what I think should be a procedural policy decision as to whether the Legislature should be involved in this whole business or not. So my one main question, I guess, is to Senator Beutler, and that is, Senator Beutler, if the Hohenstein amendment passes and we essentially do away with the Ashford amendment, then do you plan to reintroduce the topic of legislative oversight through an amendment, or are you just going to let that go at this point?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I believe that amendment has already been filed by somebody else.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Oh, it has. Okay, thank you, I was unaware of that. That helps my thinking some, I guess, because I...but, again, as the whole discussion has progressed, another question has presented itself to me, and I guess through this whole process I have been agreeing with you, Senator Beutler, about the Legislature being involved. But as we discuss more and