

who you use. That judge may or may not have a lot of knowledge about the subject which is before him. Some judges, for example, don't know much about rate disputes in electric cases, or may not know much about teachers and teachers' contracts, whereas, if you choose arbitrators, you can choose arbitrators who are already knowledgeable in the area of the case...in the area of the dispute that is to be resolved. So, clearly, to the extent that you have more expert judges, you are going to get better justice, and that is the second advantage of allowing for voluntary arbitration. The third and last advantage is that there are many, many situations involving trademarks, for example, and business secrets where you may prefer, to the extent possible, to have a confidential negotiation of your dispute. To the extent that both parties choose to do that, they ought to be able to do that. So that is the third advantage, the affordability of greater confidentiality, to the citizens of the state, to the citizens who choose to use this kind of system. Now to the taxpayer generally there is obviously another tremendous advantage and that is to the extent that arbitration relieves the workload on the courts, we don't have to go through the process of authorizing additional judges, in this Legislature, to meet ever-increasing workloads. So there will be savings to the public because arbitration, the arbitration process is not paid for by the public, it is paid for by the parties. So, basically, if the parties choose to do it, they choose to pick up the cost, but again the bottom line is always it is their choice, it is voluntary. With that, I want to make one additional point, Mr. Speaker, if I may, and that is that despite the fact that we have this arbitration system you should keep in mind that the court system sits there with oversight, under the legislative statute, with oversight over the arbitration system. For example, if the parties disagree about an arbitration agreement, that is they don't have the same interpretation of what an arbitration agreement means, an agreement to arbitrate, they can come to the court and the court will resolve that question. If they feel that there has been fraud or misrepresentation anywhere in the process, such as in the choosing of the arbitrators or in the arbitration process itself, they can come to the court and ask to have that reviewed. If they think the award is inappropriate or awarded for reasons that were not subject to arbitration, for example, they can come to the court and ask for a modification of the award. In any event, in the end the