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LR 18

was talking about cost wasn't a problem, but for those...those citizens in my district who feel like they want to make some changes, they don't have corporate America coming in and supporting their drives, so it's a very, very difficult thing for them. Verification is difficult, but why shouldn't it be? That's the way that this thing was set up. We don't need to make it easier for the clerks. I mean, that's part of the process. They're supposed to have to work to get this thing done. The initiative and referendum was established in our constitution and provides a balance for our citizens with the Legislature. I just...I can't support this. I think that if I...actually, if it goes on the ballot, I can't see that it's going to be...it's going to pass anyway, because my citizens feel so strongly about this issue. It certainly won't pass in my district. Now, it may someplace else, but...and I have to also remark that the other piece of legislation going through here that would require Secretary of State to pass on whether the petition drive is...whether the subject matter is constitutional or not, I can't support that either. You know, so it gets on the ballot, so it passes, and so later we find out it's not constitutional, that's happened. That's part of the process. It has happened and it will happen again, and I don't...I'm not sure the Secretary of State has the...and I'm not speaking about Scott Moore but I'm talking about the office, has the ability to decide what's constitutional or not. So for us to mess around with this initiative and referendum, I have great problems with it. I know we've been disappointed in some of the actions that have taken place out there, but on the other hand it is a fair process. It's been done with dignity, I think, for the most part, and I don't think it's...I don't think it's right for us to try to tinker with it. So I'm going to oppose LR 18CA and I'm going to oppose the other constitutional amendment change that's involved with it too. And I was very impressed, by the way, about...with the article that Senator Quandahl had in the World-Herald a couple weeks ago. I thought it was well put and he...well-thought-out. So I oppose this legislation and I hope you will too. Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Schimek, followed by Senators Kristensen, Wehrbein, Schrock, Smith, and Tyson.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the