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LR 11

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, we keep going back and forth on this, back and forth. You know, why, why shouldn't we just let people run everything by petition? Well, you know, that's why the petition process is there. That's why it's there. The people can have...do have the right to petition their government on almost anything. But if that's, you know, if you think that is the way these issues should be taken care of, then why are we here? Then why are we here? I think we have a good form of government. We have a committee process. We have bill introduction; assigned to a committee. The committee takes those ideas and has a public hearing. Sometimes they're very lengthy, sometimes they're very short. Then the committees, you know the structure, you vote the bills either to advance or not to advance them. I've had a lot of bills in my...this is my twelfth year, that I've never got out of committee, and I accept that. But if I am dead set on that particular issue, I make sure that I introduce that bill again the next year. There may have to be some modifications. You'll learn what the committees like or what they don't like, so you try and run it again the next year. The hardest committee that I ever had to get a bill out of was Revenue, and I thought, well, maybe, you know, if I got on Revenue, why, that would change. Well, it didn't. I mean, it's still (laugh) a pretty tough committee to get a bill out of. But I think that our process is probably the best process in the world. It allows us to stand up here and debate issues. Other issues have been brought before us, too, numerous times, numerous times. It isn't only LR 11CA. It isn't only this, this idea that we have. But it comes time when you say, all right, we know what's going to happen and we don't like or don't want to think about what the outcome might be in your state. So then you look and you try...you try to get the constitutional amendment, try to get enough people to get it out of committee, get it on the floor, and we argue them. But I think the regulation and the taxation of this procedure, of this gaming, needs to be in this body. That's what you were elected for, to preserve the constitution, to alter it from time to time, make changes in it, pass legislative bills. Probably the most sacred thing is the right for people to vote and I think that giving them the chance, no matter what the subject, it