

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I also arise to oppose the Rumery amendment. It seems to me that there are times when a simple majority is not enough. I think this body has agreed to that in the past just with our own rules. It takes more than a simple majority of this body to change our rules. It takes more than a simple majority to overrule our rules. It takes more than a simple majority to pass an appropriations bill, for instance. It seems to me that what we are dealing with here is an instance where an elected board of directors is in a position to expend a tremendous amount of money belonging to the ratepayers of this state, and before that decision is made to circumvent the bidding statutes and go to instead an advertising for negotiation on a contract that it should have some checks and balances. One of the checks as written in LB 34 would, as amended, would require the engineer's certification that it was impractical and not in the public interest to put out for sealed bid. The other check is that it would require a two-thirds of the elected board. It seems to me that that check should stay there. If we have decided in this body that there are instances when it takes more than a simple majority, it seems to me it is no more than right that we should extend that to some of our subdivisions, in particular when we are talking about expending huge amounts of dollars, that their decision should definitely require more than a simple majority. I urge the body's rejection of the Rumery amendment to the Wesely amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, do you have any more to present before we go to Senator Rumery to close? Okay, the Chair recognizes Senator Rumery to close on his amendment.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just because we have made mistakes in the Legislature requiring these more than a majority rules is no reason why we should continue the practice. The way we are doing in the Legislature and other places is we are allowing minorities to control the votes and I think we ought to stick with what the founding fathers talked about was the majority rules. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the Rumery amendment to the Wesely amendment. All those in favor of the Rumery amendment vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Senator Rumery. Record the vote.

CLERK: 5 ayes, 23 nays on adoption of Senator Rumery's amendment.