

maintain the lid but they are very disappointed that by a majority vote of this body that what they had accomplished through the initiative process could be turned aside. It totally contradicts what their wishes dictated. Ladies and gentlemen I mentioned on General File that I found such a situation intolerable and again I restate, I feel that that is unconscionable. I do believe that if this issue were placed again on these...on the ballot for people to vote on this particular issue that the lids that are presently imposed would be lifted. So I ask you to join me in returning this bill to Select File for this specific amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is to return the bill to Select File for a specific amendment. Senator Koch and then Senator Carsten.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, we went through this on General File. We argued the merits of number of people on a petition. As I quoted to you then the statutes dealing with the subdivisions of government is rather consistent. It is generally consistent at 15% for cities and those kinds of subdivisions for any petition. We arrived at a reasonable compromise, it was five and we said ten is reasonable. I'm willing to accept that. Now we are going to try to go back to 5% and I'll state the fact again. When you are in smaller communities it doesn't take many signatures to get a petition and many times this can be used as a harassment against elected officials in terms of good government procedure. I think that if the statutes that we have had here historically used 15% for cities and other subdivisions, if that wasn't appropriate we should have changed that a long time ago. I sit on the Public Works Committee, the other day we adopted an amendment on petitions and we used 10%. The logic behind that was that we had just recently set in 17E the 10% was a figure that could be defended in terms of initiating a petition. I hope the body will reject Senator Stoney's proposal to return 17E to Select File for the 5% figure to get a petition as well as the remainder. I will let Senator Carsten speak to this because the community that he is close to is also effected by this piece of legislation. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have got a question of Senator Stoney first I guess relative to the time frame and the process that would, that could be