

I rise to oppose the committee amendments and to suggest that the Legislature take a new step and adopt the bill as written essentially and I tell you that normally for about eleven years, ten years, I have stood up and been on the other side of this proposal and said, look, the law is good, let it work. But we have continued to have problems and I think maybe the law does need a change and a chance to try the alternate system. Now why have I, so to speak, switched? I will tell you very simply. Senator Kilgarin and Senator Beutler came to me and asked me what my position was on the proposal and I told them I am likely to be leading or participating in leading the opposition to you and they said to me, will you at least really honestly before you do that, forget a lobbyist, forget anybody involved, forget your personal interest and really study it objectively. And I have always stated in here that there is not an issue that I won't at least sit down and examine my position on, examine everything, and if it really does have a case, I will try to listen and I did on this. And I did with a lot of knowledge, I think, in the area, having been involved in construction, having been involved in mechanics liens, having been involved in the litigation on both sides, at all comes of it and it became eminently clear to me that at least as the system is functioning now it is a failure, at least a failure in the minds of the public and let me use a simple example which some of you may even have thought about to compare the two systems. One hundred years ago or whenever we developed the law that is on the books now, if Carol Pirsch built a house, Carol Pirsch knew who the carpenter was, if there was electrical or something comparable, she knew who that was and the painter. Shoot, they probably were the next door neighbor or the guy down the street. As other things have evolved, so has the construction system and today, one hundred years later, construction of houses is essentially the same, essentially the same as the automation of the automobile assembly line or anything else. When you walk in to Jim Goll's place and you say, "Jim, I like that Chevy sitting there on the floor that costs \$8,500," and Jim says, "Fine." You write Jim Goll out a check and you take that car and you don't have a labor union guy coming and saying, "Look, Chrysler," oops, I think I blew the wrong company here, "Ford, didn't pay me my wages" or you don't have somebody else coming along and B.F. Goodrich and saying, "We didn't get paid enough for the tires. Ford still owes us some money." Sounds hilarious, doesn't it? It sounds ludicrous and it is but that is the system, a hundred years old, maybe older that we are saying is okay for mass produced houses. We are saying, you the buyer, you go in and buy it just like you would a car basically today but unbeknowns to you, whoever the painter, plumber,