

March 10, 1982

LB 647

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to support Senator Johnson in his amendment. For purposes of an individual that isn't on the committee and didn't have an opportunity to study this issue beforehand, I read the language on page 2 of this bill, the existing language in the statutes, and it bothers me quite a little when it talks about the registered and qualified voter of the State of Nebraska can carry a petition in the State of Nebraska provided that they also give the indication as to what county and when the signatures were obtained. When we consider that many of us in this Legislature, myself included, represent several counties, it seems to me that what we are saying is that we can represent several counties as a member of this Legislature, yet an individual who lives out there in one of those counties cannot represent anymore than the county they happen to live in when it comes to the matter of carrying a petition petitioning their government and that bothers me somewhat. I cannot see the analogy between those two. I happen to live very close to a border of a county. As a matter of fact my hometown is in a different county and it is only five miles from my home and I have to go through three counties to get there. There is a lot of county lines right there in that general area and those people are all Nebraskans and they are all interested and concerned about the same issues particularly when it relates to state government, state issues and that is the petitions that we are talking about here, and to say that one individual could not carry a petition to his neighbor that might live a half a mile away or a mile away just because he happens to be on the other side of the county line seems really ridiculous to me. To also say that that same individual before he carries a petition having to do with any changes that they might like to see in their government has to post a bond of \$500 is even more ridiculous. Those of us that are in this body or those of us that are up for reelection this year had to come up with \$48 in order to file. If we can come up with less than \$50 and manage to get elected, we can serve in this body, but yet we say in our statutes that if you want to try to affect a change in your government as an individual, you have got to come up with more than ten times that amount. Again I fail to see the analogies in those circumstances. So for those reasons, I support Senator Johnson in this amendment to this bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think it is clear to the Legislature what this bill is designed to do. It is designed to prevent or at least make