

ask you to think about what the real motives are behind this. Is this a sincere concern to be sure that we have less fraud when an initiative petition is circulated or is this designed simply to put up a roadblock or a stumbling block to prevent people from putting measures like the bottle bill provision or tax limitation provisions or any of the other social provisions that we have had on the ballot in recent years? And it seems to me that regardless of where you are in the political spectrum, whether you are someone who is a proponent of zero percent lids or seven percent lids, or whether you are someone that likes to come in with referendum petitions to repeal tax increase, or if you are someone who likes to impose bottle bills or sunshine acts, or wherever you are in the political spectrum, this sort of legislation undermines your fundamental ability to affect the statutes of the State of Nebraska by making it more difficult for you to take advantage of the initiative process. So for that reason I would support Senator Johnson's amendment. I think it is a good amendment and if passed will turn this into a piece of legislation that will advance the initiative rights rather than curtail them unjustly. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kahle. We have two minutes left on the bill.

SENATOR KAHLE: I yield my time to Senator Hefner.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hefner. Two minutes.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I oppose the Johnson amendment and I think that I would like to answer some questions that have been posed by some of the other Senators. This bill would eliminate the bond and right now you are required to post a \$500 bond but this bill would eliminate it because it would just allow those residents in that particular county to circulate the petition. And Senator Cullan's example of a wheel tax, Senator Cullan, this would not be covered because that would be a local initiative and this does nothing to do that. And I think Senator Vickers mentioned something about bordering county borders. Yes, you would not be able to go into another county but the people from my area have told me that they are getting sick and tired of people from other areas coming into their particular county and circulating these petitions. At the present time if you live along a state border, you are not allowed to carry this petition into another state. And one other thing, Senator Chambers mentioned lobbyists. The biggest lobbyist against this bill