

course for these counties to take. Many of those people might volunteer their services so they wouldn't even have to pay them. But to give a citizen outside of the State of Nebraska, a nonresident the opportunity to participate in the political process with a vote, I think would be a mistake and would urge your rejection of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Whoever wants my time can have it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please. Excuse me, did you say Senator Chambers? Well, we'll just go on down the line then if it's okay. Senator Wesely, please, then Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I just want to make a couple of comments and then give some time to Senator Landis and Senator Chambers, if they need it. I want to rise and let you know that, obviously, we're reaching a division point here in terms of what we want to try and accomplish. There are many of us who want to give the right of the people to vote, the right to select who they want to represent themselves with an idea that we have some confidence in those people to do the right thing. That's essentially the position of some of us on the floor but I also want to recognize that I think some unfair abuse has been heaped on Senator Schmit who has taken the brunt of the concerns here. I have worked with him a long time, respect him greatly. I know that he is trying to do the right thing in his mind and I think he has worked very hard in recognizing this issue. And I, for one, hope that we don't sink down to a point where we point the finger at anybody as being unfair or unreasonable because, in my view, Senator Schmit has been excellent in working on this issue in an attempt to represent his viewpoint. But, in my view, the other side of the coin would be that we do need to give people the right to vote, the right to represent themselves and I have confidence they will do a good job. That confidence is one that was, I think, represented in the vote on LR 402 when the citizens voted to stay in the compact. I think, given the choice, they will make the right choice nine times out of 10. With that, I give the rest of my time to Senator Landis.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Morrissey, please.