

indicated he would like to sign on also. Senator Warner, I am strongly opposed to your kill motion. Senator Wesely, Senator Schimek and the other people of vision, I strongly support your bill, I applaud you for bringing it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek, do you wish to speak to the motion to indefinitely postpone?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I rise to respectfully and strongly argue against this motion to indefinitely postpone. I think that it's an important issue. It's one that we've heard before, incidentally, the bill was before us last year. It's one that we'll hear again when Senator Chambers' bill comes before us later this year. And so I hesitate to go on too long about the issue. But I want to tell you, just briefly, what two elected officials said when they came before the Government Committee on this bill. Colleen Seng, who is a member of the city council, said that supporters of the current system claim the hybrid district election...district at large election methods offer the best of both worlds. And she said it's not the best of both worlds, in fact it's upside down and backward. She added that it makes no sense for voters from throughout the county to choose who will represent a particular district. She also responded to critics who say a district board will be divisive. That's a real red herring, to protect special interests, she said. Another city councilman, Ken Harr, came before the committee. And Ken Harr is the one on the city council who runs at large. The rest of our city council districts, I believe, are elected by district, at least the greatest share of them are. Ken Harr said that he spent about \$40,000 to win his at large seat at the council, while district candidates spent less than \$20,000. In other words, it is much more expensive to run a county wide election than it is a district election. And we are precluding some people from running for office, if we have an at large system. I would just simply close and come back later with more remarks, if necessary. But close and ask you to not vote for this motion to postpone. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Labeledz, did you wish to speak to the motion to indefinitely postpone? Senator Labeledz, did you wish to speak to the motion to indefinitely postpone?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to support