

whichever way you want to look at it, because of the way that they've taken money in the process. Well, everybody on this floor has taken money in the process to help out with their campaigns so what if, you know we struggle with that idea of what we can do to level the playing field. Well if you're going to level this playing field in your mind on the petition process, then let's do the flip side and do it on the legislative side and say that if we don't take any money from those sources, you're going to give us two votes for every one vote for an individual who does. That's your high-mindedness on this two-tier, you know wanting this two-tier system on saying that this...that paid circulators are bad and volunteer are good so we're going to punish this one. You should be honest and be coming to this floor, that's what you're hired to do by these people, it's their tax money that is paying you to be here, and at least give them the courtesy of saying why you truly want to destroy the petition process because at least the people out in that lobby are honest about why they want to destroy the petition process. They just told me that they don't want to have to pay to fight every one of these petitions that come up. NSEA just dropped \$17 million out in California. That's a pretty big chunk of money and they can't afford to do that in every state across the United States for every petition that comes up, so at least they're honestly telling me why they want to stop the petition process in its tracks. The people who come here and saying, oh, we can't, we have to do this some kind of two-tiered system, I'm sorry but I don't believe that and I don't believe in the task force that you put together, that you were honestly trying to solve any problem at all. I believe, as most of the people that I have spoken to believe, that what you're trying to do is destroy the petition process in this state...

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** One minute.

**SENATOR WITEK:** ...because you don't like it because you think it's gone bonkers and you think because that we're actually getting involved and using it to make decisions that you, yourself don't agree with, many of you don't agree with, that somehow that you're going to change the rules of the game on us and you have the power to do that. We all know that you have been elected and have the power to do that, but don't think that you're going to get us there quietly and don't think that we're going to like it when you do and don't think that we're going to forget it when your election comes up.