

many will argue, well, what's that have to do with this. The point is, if you look at how our forefathers set up the Constitution, they did allow for changes in the Constitution. But reflect for a minute how hard they made it, reflect for a moment how difficult they wanted it to be to change the Constitution of the United States. It is not an easy aspect, and they didn't want it to be an easy aspect. They didn't want everything on the ballot. They wanted to make sure that it was so important and the people were so much behind it that only then would it be changed. That is why, for example, in the United States Senate, you needed 67 out of 100 yes votes. Not a simple majority, not 7 percent, not 6 percent, 67 out of 100 they had to have, and even then if they would have gotten that, it would have taken the ratifications of the vast majority of states, three-fifths to be exact. Very difficult concept. The other way they said is if Congress wasn't going to do it, we could have the people, themselves, the states themselves vote to have a Constitutional Convention and offer changes, and that hasn't happened yet. Extremely difficult. The rationale that we have in Nebraska is that we want to make it as easy as possible, and I really look back and wonder because when I talk to constituents, they say, you know, the Constitution is sacred. We shouldn't go around changing the Constitution all the time. We have to be careful about that, and yet Senator Beutler's amendment would make it again very easy for the process to take place. I think the numbers that we have in the bill now are good numbers. I'd liked to have seen them higher, but Senator Bohlke's amendment did not pass. The numbers, if you compare to where we are now, compared to what the original things were, we are in pretty good shape. On the second portion of the Beutler amendment, he wants to switch it around. My sense is it doesn't make any sense unless you are trying to, for some reason, favor petition projects now that are out there. It doesn't make any sense to say we are going to have a lower...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ... (inaudible) two years and then we are going to wait to see what the courts say. We, the Legislature, owe it to our constituents to put the best policy forward. And the best policy, since we have to have a combination of paid petitioners and volunteer petitioners because of Supreme Court decisions at the federal level, the best policy is for us to put forward the bifurcated system. Let's go ahead and get a challenge to that so that once and for