

amendment. I think that we, with this amendment, can bring this back to where I felt that we should be when I introduced the bill originally and serve our citizens with what they have asked for me to do for them. This has been a rather difficult issue and I think that it became somewhat of a heated issue in several different areas before we got to the point we are now and I'd like for us to consider that and then remember that what we are doing is providing for our citizens what they have always thought that they had until some changes were made in the Legislature and in the Supreme Court which took away some of what they consider their rights. When this happened a year ago, or it would be a year ago this coming July, some of those petition drives were in effect at the time, they were working on, I didn't support. Some of them I did. But whether I supported them or not I felt that they were given a difficult cud to swallow from the Supreme Court when they told them that what they had done so far was fruitless and that they should not allow that. These people had spent an awful lot of time and a lot of effort trying to get a petition drive put together and all of a sudden found out that they needed instead of 58,000 signatures, 92,000 signatures. In effect, this meant to get valid signatures they needed from 70,000 to 120,000. So they had the 72,000 put together for the needed signature petition drive on the 58,000 votes or signatures, but the 72,000 fell far short of the 120,000 they needed to get in five weeks to manage to get this on the ballot. Now I know that perhaps what they were doing was not in the, in what you would consider your best interest or what you probably would consider that you didn't like, but beside that, this is part of our state process. This is a part of our citizens' rights. This is one of the issues that makes this a Unicameral Legislature to give those people the right to a petition and they had done this according to, in good faith, the information they received...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...from our Secretary of State and all of a sudden it no longer counted. So my plea then was to come back here and provide them with what they had had taken away from them and if we need to make some adjustments on that, that's fine with me, I don't care if we make some adjustments. I have some difficulties with the paid circulators myself and I think we need to look at that, but I think I'd like for us today to remedy LR 6 back to what it was prior to the adoption of the committee amendments and at last let for two years this