

All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 18 ayes, 0 nays to go under call.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The house is under call. Members please return to the Chamber. Senator Hall, 20 seconds of your closing has been used. You now have four and a half minutes to close. The house is under call.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members, again the amendment merely does this. It takes the language that is pre-1988, the amendment that was adopted by the citizens of this state and strips the Dierks amendment, would have it before us. We would have the ability then to debate the time honored use of the term electors for purposes of establishing those thresholds for initiative petition processes. Let me just quote for you. You all got this letter. It's from the Citizens Committee. Mr. Bernbeck is the principal, he's the Chairman. I think he's out behind the glass. He was earlier. It's dated March 3, 1995 and in the fourth paragraph let me quote from it. It says, "Because this issue affects the fundamental right to our one-house system, we are again asking you to simply restore the same workable process that the citizens have always known. Anything less would be a breach of faith to the people." In other words, the principal group that supports the embodiment of what was in the original LR 6 says we want to go back to the way things were, just as Senator Dierks has stated and others have stated since last fall. That's all this amendment does. It takes us back to the provisions in the Constitution that said we're going to use electors as the standard by which we determine those 7 and 10 percent thresholds in Section 2 of Article III. I'm very sincere, Senator Witek, about this proposal. It is at this point in time when we're locking at changing things as the Dierks amendment would, that it's the appropriate time to address this. I believe that it is clearly an issue that ought to be presented to the body. We should have the ability to vote on. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Bernbeck, when I was out talking to others, stopped me and said, you know if the debate continues to deteriorate like this, one of the first things that will be dealt with by people in the initiative process is to take away the ability for the Legislature to amend the Constitution. And my response was, well, I'm not easily threatened. I frankly don't care. It that's what you choose to do, then go about doing it. What you