

Deal, probably, we in government, have increased our desire to overregulate in a tremendously specific fashion. As a result of that, we've put impediments in the way of common sense, and really haven't accomplished what we set out to do. This prohibition against publishing the bid list is an example of one of those, where it hasn't done what it set out to do, obviously. It was passed in the mid-1950s, we have bid rigging scandals since then. What it has done, though, it has gotten in the way of small business people trying to make a living. I work in the construction industry. Everybody should be aware of that, although some people still, even though I haven't a teacher for 15 years of so, some people think I am still a school teacher, I guess, but I work in the construction industry. Contractors I work with do not do bidding on highway projects, so there is no conflict of interest here, but there may be some expertise that I can bring to this issue. Putting together a bid for a highway project is a pretty complicated process. It is not simply a guy with a road grader out there, decides to bid a job, puts in a number, and gets the job or doesn't get the job. It is a matter of a multitude of subcontractors, suppliers bidding. On a highway project, there'd be an electrical subcontractor with the street lighting. There would be many different suppliers. There'd be many different subcontractors. To put together an intelligent bid, those subcontractors need to know who the general contractors are that are bidding the project so they can get prices to them. Making this list public will facilitate that process and make it easier for the bidding process to take place. Making this list secret, obviously, doesn't do any protection in terms of bid rigging. It didn't during the mid-1980s. If people want to break the law and get around the systems, they are going to find out through making a number of telephone calls. The people that are made...it's made more difficult to work with the system are those smaller individuals who maybe want to break into the system, maybe a new supplier of a particular product needed for a highway project, doesn't know who all the bidders are going to be, with this process...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...out of the way, they will know so this will actually make the process work, I think, more expeditiously if we pass the bill. It will not create any new problems. It may solve some problems that are out there. I think Senator Robinson is bringing us a good bill, and I'd urge you to vote for it.