

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body, appreciated your comments, Senator Coordsen. I do...I do have to note that present law, as constituted asks the election commissioner or county clerk to look at the street number and the voting precinct in a city, village or post office and so forth. And if you don't...if you don't require that the address, the street address be validated then you may be talking about anywhere, anyone, anywhere in the county, and if we don't care where that is, it's very possible that somebody might even live in a different county, it just...I just don't think we can afford to get too loose with it. It's already present law to look for these things when trying to substantiate whether or not the signer was legitimately a registered voter. So we're really not changing anything here in that sense. What we are changing is the emphasis on who determines the questions of whether it's a valid registration or not. We're determining whether or not it's the election commissioner and county clerk or whether it's the Secretary of State. That's really the essence of it. And if you believe that the election commissioners and county clerks have difficulty, as I do, sometimes in knowing how to guess what the courts are going to decide, and if you believe there ought to be a uniform system then you support this language. Now the problem I have with the Bromm amendment is when you say means substantially the same that's open to interpretation. And you're going to run into the same kind of problems that we already have if this is the language that you're going to adopt. What does substantially mean? We can get into all kinds of arguments about that. So without taking too much more time, I would just say that without some uniformity in the system you don't do the petition circulators and signers a favor. What you do is open the system to court challenges and you bring not...not stability to the system but you bring sometimes chaos to the system. I think what you really want, if you want this to be for the people, is you want some uniformity in the system and you want people to be able to rely on the fact that the law is being interpreted the same everywhere. So, with that, I would simply urge that you defeat the Bromm amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I call the question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I see five hands. The question before you is whether...is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye;