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to do its work.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I, too, rise in opposition to the Maurstad amendment. And I do feel comfortable with the language of the committee amendment. I think that it allows the task force to look into some areas that they either can or cannot. I mean they either will or will not make recommendations on. It doesn't say that they necessarily have to come up with any recommendations. It also does not bind this body, nor does it bind any local housing authority or code authority, it simply is an opportunity to look at the factors that might influence the cost of housing in a local community. I don't feel that it is going to impose anything on anybody. If it were, I would be very supportive of the Maurstad amendment because I, too, am a strong supporter of the codes that the local authorities have adopted over the years. I think the one way that we insure that recommendations coming out of this task force are recommendations in keeping with our traditions is that we have people on this task force which will bring to the task force that point of view. And I notice that Senator Withem has an amendment that we'll be looking at later, that at least in part addresses that question. So I would just simply urge that you vote against the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, I have to rise in...feel obliged to rise in support of the Maurstad amendment. I have no problem with a group of citizens in the state getting together to talk about how they can help resolve the problem we have now with affordable housing. I'm not sure what the average is now, but it's somewhere between 85 and 100 thousand dollars. I would be willing to bet there are a lot of people on the floor, serving in office here, who can't afford to support a mortgage of 100,000 or less, down to 85. One of the things that concerns me on the task force is that the absence of people, you've got almost everybody on here in one way or another is involved with either the financing or the construction of homes. You know if they wanted to build affordable housing, you know, I bet you they could have found a way to do it by now. I'm not sure why we even need legislation to encourage people to get