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push to address a problem that we know exists everywhere in this state, big cities, little cities, rural areas, urban areas, farm communities, nonfarm communities. What a task force could do is to define all of the problems that attend the effort to deal with the absence of affordable housing. I think knowledge is power. A precursor to knowledge is information. When you can gather together all of those who have an interest in solving a problem, you will have the points of view that are necessary to create a panoramic view, and that will enable us to adopt a comprehensive approach. If Senator Lynch was looking at this list of people on the pink sheet, I would say that could come from "America's Most Wanted".

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if that were to be the only ones on this committee that we're creating in this bill, I would be with him. But instead of saying do away with the task force, I would say we have to make sure that the membership is representative or, as I like to say, a portraiture in miniature of all of those interests that are concerned in this area and have a right to a voice, not to be objects to be discussed or held up as exhibit A or exhibit B, or made part of a side show, but actual participants and contributors in the effort to solve this problem. So I am in opposition to Senator Maurstad's motion.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. Certainly would agree with Senator Wesely in that the current Affordable Housing Task Force is certainly a blue ribbon committee that has a great deal of expertise to it, and it would seem to me would be in a very good position, instead of the Housing Code Task Force that's being created, to solve many of the problems that he's identified. The local governments also have the ability to go through their codes, through their planning and zoning processes and try to determine if there are, in fact, things that create obstacles to people that are trying to create or renovate low income housing. That's their responsibility, some communities do it, some communities don't, but that's a local determination on what their priorities are. Also, you know if we have conflicts in state statute in areas that are a hindrance to this, to the goals outlined, then it's our responsibility to go