

been affected to the extent that we're looking at affecting the cities and villages. Want to comment on the petition efforts. You know, my opinion is, and it might be...it might be in the minority position, but my position is that what we do in this session will have little effect on the petition efforts. They're going to go on regardless of what we do because I think that, regardless of how many of these bills we pass and/or in what shape, I think you're still going to have a significant part of our population that will think that it is not enough. And so I think the petition efforts are going to be there. They're going to be before the voters, so I hope we look at this from the perspective of trying to make these bills as workable as possible. I passed out a letter from the bond council. Obviously, in my closing I don't have time to go through that so I would ask you to look at their concerns relative to the abilities of small towns and municipalities being able to borrow money and the additional expense associated if this change occurs. We...comment was made that we shouldn't tell the local municipalities how to spend...how to cut their money. I would submit to you for many years we've been telling them how to spend their money. Maybe we've come to that point where we should tell them how to cut from their budgets in addition to that and that way they would have even less control over their own destiny than what they have now. As I indicated before, I'm not trying to say that the people addressed by this amendment are special. I'm not trying to provide them preferential treatment; trying to treat them fairly. Senator Bernard-Stevens talked about the disparity in school districts must be fixed, must be addressed in this issue and I agree with him. However, I think that where we fix that and where we are attempting to make some strides in that is through LB 1050 and we should certainly continue that way. But, regardless of that, you know, not only do kids need education, they also need the services that are provided to them by their villages and by their...by the cities that they live in. There's that old saying about the village and being able to take care of the children that are in that village. And so I would say that kids need streets and parks and safe water and a sewer system and all the services that are provided to them just as much from the cities as we should provide for them in their education.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute

SENATOR MAURSTAD: The...I'm not opposed to the vote of the