

back and fix those bugs. On the Cudaback bill and what Maurstad's amend... Senator Maurstad's amendment will do is simply say, look, let's find out what the bugs are, let's implement what Senator Cudaback wants to do, let's go ahead and find those bugs and then we'll narrow it simply to bonded indebtedness and then, when we get those bugs found out, we fix those, now it's expanded to the other areas.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can recall... I rise, again, in support of the reconsideration motion. I can recall when I first heard of this, the process of mail-in ballots and the election that brought back to mind the election again out in Oregon where it was used for that special election, that a concern popped into my head that deals with this whole issue of apathy, the whole issue of my feeling that in recent years citizens have become more disconnected from their government at all levels, and so I've always felt that one of the things that was important, that we've try to do things that connect people, once again, with their government. I realize times change and there is a lot of changes that are going on in our society and our way of life today. Of course, the whole computer age and the potential and possibility for voting via computer through the E-mail or Internet or whatever could be developed. And so my concern that raises... that I have relative to those types of things and my concern that I had initially on LB 964 dealt with whether or not by providing mail-in elections we aren't, in the long run, going to reinforce apathy amongst our citizens and disconnect our citizens even farther from their government where we don't even require them the effort to go to the ballot box. We're going to make it so convenient for them that, in, in fact, they become even more apathetic than what they are today. Now I understand that that statement I just made can be ridiculed for not having faith in our fellow citizens and not allowing people to be voters, but I think anybody that realistically looks at the statistics of the past three or four decades would have a hard time substantiating that argument. It also goes to the whole issue of local control and how well local control has worked relative to holding down the costs and the increase in spending at the local level. So that's a concern I have with this. However, I have to say I was prepared to vote for the bill on Final Reading and, whether others think it's legitimate or not, my concern was really