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afternoon, and I'm not saying that by way of criticizing anybody who is not here or blaming anybody. It's just that an important issue I think is getting short shrift.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Schimek. Senator Schimek, you're recognized. There are no additional lights, Senator Schimek, if you wish to use this opportunity to close or if you wish to speak.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I think I wish to speak at this point, Senator Wickersham, because I did wish to have a little bit of discussion here with Senator Chambers, after I have the opportunity to speak again. But, Senator Chambers, I guess what I would like to say to you is I think that right now, at the present time, there's already a presumption on the part of the public that these things are constitutional when they are presented petition issues. I don't think it ever occurs to them that something might be unconstitutional by and large. Those kinds of questions don't really enter into it and, of course, unless during the course of a campaign, maybe the issues are raised in a big way. But, remember, where we're talking about right now, we're talking about presignature days, and so I don't know what harm it would be...what harm it would do to any petition effort or what good it would do particularly to any petition effort to have people think that it's con...or to know that it's constitutional. I would think that would be helpful and reassuring. Whether it's good public policy or not, as Senator Vrtiska mentioned, is a whole 'nother ball of wax, and I think right now people probably make the presumption something is constitutional until they are told differently by the courts, and I...I can't tell you how many groups I've mentioned to that I thought it would be nice if we could have some kind of a determination before these issues actually go on the ballot and people really, I have not ever heard anybody disagree with that. They're very, very accepting and can't understand why on earth we can't have a court determination ahead of time before they actually are presented the issue on a ballot. So I think it would be a service to the public. I think it would be a service to those people who are involved in petition issues and who are ending up spending exorbitant amounts of money on these petitions. Now, again, I suppose you can make an economic development issue argument on this bill and say that it's money