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think the finding of facts and other things that are proposed in this amendment are vital to improving the process that we have set out in our laws. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Kremer.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I don't know which one of the dwarfs I am. Probably Sleepy, because I stay up late at night watching the war every night. I can't quite get myself away from that. I wanted to identify certain things to ask others and those who are more acquainted with how the zoning process has been working, identify certain things that I hope that they will spend some time talking about because these are the questions in my mind. And I suppose it starts out with the first question as to whether there is a problem here at all. As you are all aware, you've gotten letters from the County Officials Association. The county people oppose even the amended version of this as a obstacle to local control in the matter, and so, of course, that raises serious questions for all of us right there and I hope that will be addressed. I hope it particularly will be addressed in light of two things: one, the historic context. That is, as you all are aware, I think a third or fewer of our counties actually had zoning as late as four or five years ago. That is, almost two-thirds of our counties, over the period of the latter 1990s and beginning in this century, have been going through the process of, for the first time in their history, initiating zoning rules and regulations and building zoning commissions and figuring out how a zoning commission works with the county officials and how information is supposed to flow. And that's a very, very difficult thing for these...for the smaller counties who have fewer resources and it takes them longer to process this information to get systems going, and maybe they don't do it quite right and in the proper order all of the time. So, you know, part of my question is, is this really necessary? To the extent that there might be a few problems, one, are they really problems and, two, if they are problems, are they problems that are going to be there permanently or are they temporary problems? It's very difficult for me to think that there are going to be permanent problems because, frankly, I can't imagine