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LB 598

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I want to stand here and let the body know that I am opposed to term limits. I'm opposed to term limits for a number of reasons. But I just had a...I just had something that I had to say. And I've just talking to Senator Chambers. When I was running last time, I spent a lot of time on the campaign trail, as most of you did. And one of the issues at that time was, of course, term limits. And I found out, the meetings that I went to, the people that I visited with, were in favor of term limits. And when I asked them the reason why, invariably they said, it's the only way we can get rid of that Senator Chambers. Well, that was interesting to me because I said, you know, maybe you don't like what Senator Chambers does. Maybe I don't like what he does. But on the other side of the coin, Senator Chambers does a lot of good things. And they said, like what? I said, when I first came to the Legislature, he taught me more things than probably any other senator here, because I was curious about some of the things that were happening. So what I was trying to show was, do you throw the baby out with the bathwater? If you don't like Senator Chambers, that means you ought to say, everybody is going to be left here. And I said, one other thing I have to tell you is, knowing Senator Chambers, he'll probably figure a way to beat the system anyway. And I thought I really had convinced a number of people to change their mind because of our discussions and the people that I'd talked to. But I didn't, because my county, my district voted overwhelmingly for term limits. But the thing that puzzled me, and puzzles me to this day,...I was running for my third term. Which means, if they didn't want me, why didn't they vote me out? Why would they keep me up here if they thought term limits were the right idea? They had a choice to do it at that ballot box. And I was interested, when I talked to so many people, and that seemed to be their goal, was to get rid of some of the senators after two terms, and yet I got 77 or 78 percent of the vote in my district. Now, there's something wrong with the thinking process. And I don't mean to insult the people in my district, except to say that apparently they didn't mean what they said when they said they wanted to get rid of term limits, except