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LB 242

regarding a candidate or a ballot question, a candidate or a ballot question, or from communicating that opinion to his or her constituents. Well, the first amendment is to strike "to his and (sic) her constituents," because it becomes extremely confusing as to who your constituents are or who you're appealing to when you have a particular kind of communication. If you turn out in Lincoln a press release to all of the Lincoln radio stations, am I applying...am I speaking just to my constituents, or am I speaking to the constituents of everybody else who represents a part of Lincoln? I mean, there are just terrible interpretations here that are going to have to be made, and some might be made to the detriment of a senator at a particular point in time when they didn't really intend to violate the law. So it seemed to us not an inappropriate thing to do to simply say that you can communicate your opinion and not to worry about whether it's your constituents within your district. You know, another question they came up with was, well, if Ed Schrock is communicating with everybody who's interested in water, are those his constituents? Well, in a sense, they're a constituency of the Natural Resources Committee. That whole water area is a constituency. So it becomes even more confusing in that regard if you think about it in those terms. So that's the first change. The second change says that a member is not authorized to use mass mailings at public expense for the purpose of qualifying, supporting, or opposing a ballot question. Mass mailings have been the one sort of expensive public resource that we have been prohibited from using for purposes of supporting a ballot question or a candidate, for that matter, and under this bill we would continue to prohibit that, but what we would not prohibit are use of other mass communications. So if I'm sending an e-mail to somebody in support of a ballot question or against it, I can do that, but I will continue not to be able to do the expensive thing, which is to do a mass mailing, and that distinction is the second purpose of the bill. Then there are two other changes that were included by the committee amendment and this bill, by the way, presents to you the form of the bill as it was amended by the committee, and Senator Mines added two provisions and I'm going to let him talk about those two provisions. And the third provision that was added by the main bill was a section that says, this section does not prohibit an employee of