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with the courts. It would still leave in there that you had to file papers, you'd leave in there that you had to have a percentage of the voters in...sign the petition. And it would leave in there that the person that was being recalled had the right to file a defense statement. And those...usually, what they did before, whenever you had a recall petition, the person that was filing the recall had to put a statement in there, and the person that was being recalled also got to put a defense statement. And that was always on the petition, so that whoever signed that petition had the choice to read both sides of the argument right there on the petition. So that part, I think, should be left in there.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Thank you, Senator Louden. I rise in support of the Louden amendment. I'm appreciating his work on this, and certainly, I think that we need to maintain our recall statutes. Of course, that's easy to say, as a state senator who cannot be recalled. But also, I think we need to be reasonable about this, and I think that we're heading in that direction. There are recall elections that take place that I think are unfair. There are also some recall elections that take place that are necessary. So I hope that we can proceed in a positive direction, and so that we can maybe clean up the statutes a little bit, without gutting our recall law altogether. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Further discussion, Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, colleagues. Let me just say about Senator Louden's amendment--and I've told him this several times--I like the amendment. I like how it's been crafted, and I like what it also does. On the other hand, I like my amendment, AM2867, which would involve the courts. I think this is going to be a personal decision for all of us. I think we just...if you want to remove the court specifically in language as an arbiter, then vote for Senator Louden's AM2915. If you think that the court should have...you should have two paths, one is to just let the recall petition process proceed, or you should be able to go to the court to define whether or not a standard is met, then AM2867 is your choice. So I'm going