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Bill: SCR4013

Members of the Committee,

I am in strong opinion that at the very least this bill should be amended to remove the 67% majority of votes for a measure to pass. This should remain at the simple majority. I would prefer that signature requirement remain at 4%, but think 5% is not so significant to make this seem like a power grab. I am in agreement as to how money is used to promote the initiative measure but not sure if this is the right means to curtail that as we should find a better way to have North Dakota money pay for such efforts and not large investments made by people outside the state that fundamentally want to change who we are.

Most directly though the power grab is in making the change to 67% of the electorate vote. We are a conservative Republican state for a reason and we should not be moving the goal posts of government at the expense of the representative republic we all enjoy and have an investment in. Nationally we heard talk of Democrats wanting to add more Supreme Court justices above the 9 in order to gain back the majority of judges that think like they do. There was also talk of adding D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam in as States to leverage the electoral college in their favor. This is a power grab from the "We the People" so respected in our founding documents in regard to American Citizens. So

why as a conservative Republican majority state would we allow for moving the “goal posts” to handcuff the rights of our North Dakota citizens. As a Republican myself, I hope that our other Republican and Democrat legislators do not behave like our liberal counterparts in D.C. and move the goal posts on the Initiated measure process so much that it becomes a theft of the “Power of the People” in regards to the citizens of North Dakota!

Sincerely

Mike Connelly