

Committee do their job over the summer and next year we'll revisit the portions of the bill that do need some policy discussion. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Baack. Seeing no other lights, Senator Ashford, to close on your amendment.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President and members, and I appreciate the debate on the issue, but contrary to Senator Schimek's statements about the apparent waste of time in talking about this, I would suggest that when we debated this last year the opposition was primarily from the lobby. We at one point had an amendment to limit individual PAC contributions and that really caused a lot of problem and that was removed from the bill. This particular provision that we're talking about now was a separate bill from the campaign finance bill. It ran on parallel courses. It was amended into the campaign finance bill. Maybe that's what Senator Withem was referring to when he said that somehow this messed up, and maybe I misunderstood him, messed up the campaign finance bill and if it did I don't know how. But I don't think there is anything more important in our system right now than limiting the influence of political action committees, corporations and other special interest groups and absolutely no reason whatsoever has been given for not implementing this particular section. Some valid reasons have been given by Senator Baack to us for delaying the implementation of the other. And again, we have made great strides in this area, but I...at least on paper, and hopefully we will at some point implement some of these strides. But again, this was...there was a lot of debate on this issue last year. The aggregates came in. There has been no reason that I can see given for not implementing this right away. At least we'll have some campaign finance reform. The argument that we should have it be less than \$25,000 for legislative races, the limit be less, is a great argument except it took an awful lot to get it to 25,000 and I suggest that we won't go much below that even if we spend another five years debating it. So again I think we should strike a blow for some basic campaign finance reform to be implemented before the next elections. This is a trend that is going on across the country. If we don't start implementing this thing, instead of being one of the first states, we'll be probably the last, one of the last states to implement this kind of limitation. So with that, Mr. President, I would urge that we adopt the amendment.