

Testimony on HB-5034

A United States senator should not be chosen by a governor but by the people of their state. To be technical I bring you to section 3, clause 1 of the constitution which states "the senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof..." also section 4 clause 1 which states "the times, places and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof..." Senators are meant to serve at the behest of the whole state not just by the appointment of one governor.

I am sure that this was a valid way to pick a senator mid-term in the past but now holding an election for senator should not prove to be that difficult. In the day and age of 24 hour news cycles and high speed internet getting the word out about a special election has never been easier.

As a state it is in our best interest to revisit this now, we currently stand to lose a senator should his bid for president prove successful and we came mere electoral votes from having our other senator be vice president. Also what happened recently with Senator Tim Johnson showed us

all how one governor could shift the balance of power in Washington if they saw fit. The party of a senator should not be chosen by the governor of the state but by the will of the people. Holding a special election is the best way to go about changing how we fill a vacant seat in the United States senator because it does not guarantee that either party will grab the seat but leaves it to the people of the state as it should be. Having a senator elected is the best way to ensure that who ever does go to Washington is beholden to the people of their state and not just the governor. It is with great urgency that I ask you to please draft this bill.

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