

Mr. Chair and members of the committee: I am Max Hailperin, speaking as a private individual opposed to the electronic roster portion of this bill, article 3. My relevant background is as a professor of computer science.

Those of you who serve on Government Operations know that I raised grave concerns about the original version. Unless there are questions, I won't repeat my explanation of how the online form of roster creates a substantial risk of election-day chaos. Instead, let's consider what has changed.

Representative Kiffmeyer has amended this article, but the only big change is to make electronic rosters optional. That leaves my major concerns intact, but adds a distinctly fiscal dimension. You are being asked to appropriate money on the "Field of Dreams" theory: that if the state builds the system, the local governments will come to it. Perhaps there are local election officials clamoring to be the first to expose their elections to risks beyond their control, and ready to pay for the privilege. More likely, the state would build a system only to have zero counties opt in. Either way you lose: money wasted, or money spent creating risk.

Based on my conversation with Representative Kiffmeyer, I had hoped to see a more substantial amendment that fixes this problem. Instead, she has made it your problem. You are the stewards of our state. I do not see how you can responsibly move the bill forward containing such an appropriation for a system likely to serve no one, or perhaps worse.

I welcome questions and thank you for your attention.