

Opponent Oral Testimony on Senate Bill 208

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Davis Hammet – Loud Light Civic Action

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Chair Thompson, Members of the Committee,

Justification – What problem is being solved?

Any bill that has the potential to increase the burden on a citizen casting a ballot or reduces the likelihood of their vote being counted should be treated with extreme caution. An evidence based problem should be documented and a solution should be carefully crafted to address that problem.

Sec. 1(a) & (e) – Definition in (e) contradicts requirements in (a)

Sec. 1(a) states “Such remote ballot box shall be located inside the county election office” which is then contradicted by the definition within Sec.1(e) stating “‘Remote ballot box’ does not include any ballot boxes located in a county election office.”

Sec. 1(a) – Limit counties to one remote drop box

This arbitrary number would require some counties to decrease the number of remote drop box options they provide voters.

Sec. 1(b) – Effectively eliminate evening and weekend advanced ballot drop off

By only allowing advanced ballot drop boxes to be accessible when the county election office is open, this bill effectively eliminates evening and weekend ballot returns across much of the state.

Sec. 1(b) – Requires two employees to continuously observe each drop box

This subsection appears to require each county to hire two employees per drop box during the advance voting period for the sole purpose of watching the drop box. This cost would be incurred by the counties.

Sec.1(e) – Technical definition concern preventing poll site ballot returns

The definition of “remote ballot box” appears to include ballot boxes used for advance ballots returned to a poll site on Election Day. I assume this is an oversight and recommend this section be modified to prevent any legal uncertainty around the ability to return a ballot to a county polling site on election day.

This bill solves no problem while creating numerous new problems. I recommend this committee oppose SB208. I’m happy to stand for any questions when appropriate.