

Opponent Oral Virtual Testimony on Senate Bill 445

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Davis Hammet – Loud Light Civic Action

February 17, 2022

Chair Olson, Members of the Committee,

Justification

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.

Legal Implication Unclear

The bill refers to the “ballot box” and references a statute that deals with the box that raw ballots without an envelope are inserted into. It’s unclear from reading the statute how exactly this relates to ballots in sealed return envelopes.

Drop Box Ban

Assuming the intention is to ban sealed advance ballot drop boxes, it’s unclear why the legislature would support this. Advance ballot drop boxes are reliable, secure, and improve voter access.

USPS Concerns and Delays

There are a variety of concerns related to the speed of USPS delivery including “No Mail Tuesdays,” the closing of all processing facilities in the state, and the slowing of mail speeds over the last several years. Some individuals do not trust the government including USPS and should have accessible alternatives such as drop boxes.

I recommend this committee oppose SB 445. I’m happy to stand for any questions when appropriate. Thank you,

Davis Hammet

President, Loud Light Civic Action