



NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE

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THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT -TO-KNOW

Tom Fahey of the Union Leader on 3/26/06 wrote that “This long night was something House members brought on themselves. A minority from the House Republican Alliance have bogged down progress by calling for recorded votes on any issue they think they can capitalize on this coming election season. Each roll call takes time (and costs taxpayers money).”

The House Republican Alliance would like to respond with what we believe are two issues.

1. Whether it is the Republicans or Democrats who request roll calls and both parties often do, these votes are a public service and promote truth and transparency in government, while creating a permanent record of representation. Roll Call votes are an invaluable tool for accountability. Citizens, public and private organizations, and especially news services, often rely on them as a factual guide for their own report cards, for rating legislators and for accurate political reporting. Roll call votes on important issues such as eminent domain, criminal penalties and runaway spending are a great educational tool at a bargain price.

2. Roll calls do not cause a bogging down of process as each take approximately 5 minutes. On Wednesday, one important bill, the sexual predator bill, had only 15 minutes of roll calls yet took all morning to debate. As to the lateness of the session, perhaps investigative reporting as to why the House shoe-horned all of their work in the last two days is in order. The House was available for sessions the previous week, yet none were held.

We thank the reporter for mentioning that a minority of the House support the Republican Party Platform and Constitutions.

The NHHRA is comprised of members of the NH House of Representatives striving for legislative support for bills supporting the NH and U.S. Constitutions and NH Republican party platform. For more information, please log onto <http://www.nhhouserepublicanalliance.org>.###