

Senator, now you know how I feel

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By: **Bill Bender**, Fargo

'I feel totally disrespected," Sen. John Andrist, R-Crosby, said when asked about the changes to his legislation.

Hey, Senator, now you finally have an idea how voters feel about your efforts on Measure 3.

Do legislators bother to read The Forum opinion pages? Judging by the letters submitted, it's obvious that while we as citizens may or may not have voted for Measure 3, the majority did, and we accept it. The fact that some Republican legislators assume they have the moral right to change a voter-enacted measure simply because they don't agree with it is almost beyond comprehension.

And just where does this stop? The next time an issue is brought up for referendum and passes, what assurance do we have that Andrist, Carlson & Co. won't change it to suit their personal beliefs?

I sincerely hope that the democracy-loathers in the Legislature who like to subvert the voters' will are prepared for the repercussions. It may have something to do with the current state of the national Republican Party, but the general feeling in my conversations around the region is that Republicans in the North Dakota Legislature either feel very, very safe in their right-leaning districts, or are simply not very smart.

My feeling is that it's most likely a little of both ... mixed with good doses of hubris and detachment from reality.