

1 this was that the referendum was a drain on the General
2 Assembly. We had gone through a lot in trying to strengthen
3 that body to act responsibly. It seems to me that it is
4 foolish for us at the same time to grant them additional
5 powers, and additional ~~statutes~~ and permit their acts to
6 be challenged frivolously by a relatively small number of
7 people.

8 Among the other things that have been brought
9 to your attention time and time again is the growth of the
10 State of Maryland in terms of its population. That popula-
11 tion becomes highly concentrated, and I submit that
12 getting five percent of the registered voters on petition
13 is certainly not an impossible task. It has been done, and
14 where the people are really interested and where the General
15 Assembly has in fact gone against the best interest, or
16 the wishes of a substantial number of our people, they have
17 the use of the referendum, and it is a tool that they
18 can use.

19 I earnestly urge that you defeat the amendment.

20 THE PRESIDENT: Are you ready for the question?

21 The Clerk will ring the quorum bell.