

Letter from Ken Schmalz – November 4, 2002

I have been informed by some of the members of the ERER Task Force that the issue of the Roseau County Pilot Project proposal will be a topic of discussion at an upcoming subcommittee meeting. I will not be able to attend the meeting. This proposal was discussed at a recent executive board meeting of the Minnesota Recorder's Association. It was our conclusion that the testing of a portal should not be considered at this time.

We all are aware of the importance of trying to come up with a solution for electronic recording that will benefit most if not all of the smaller counties in Minnesota.

It is the associations understanding that the pilots are supposed to test the standards developed by the task force. If the portal proposed for the Roseau County pilot project is part of the standards test, it is our concern that it might become the default solution for many if not all of the smaller counties in Minnesota without their input.

We feel that Roseau County should concentrate on solutions that give them more than just a way to receive electronic documents. It seems that more emphasis should be given to improving their entire system. For the budget proposed for this project, there may be a way to help them end up with an electronic indexing system along with the ability to accept electronic documents without the use of a portal.

It is our hope that the ERER Task Force put off the portal discussion until after the conclusion of the pilot projects. Concentrate first on helping Roseau County to become more automated so that they can fully take advantage of the benefits of electronic recording.