

from Brazil. The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, and especially Senator Murphy, I would like to rise in support of the committee amendments and to remind the Legislature we are speaking now just to the committee amendments and I know that we will have to address the questions raised by Senator Murphy. I disagree with him but I do not feel that this is the appropriate time to discuss the financing aspects of the Natural Resource Districts but I do believe that the committee amendments are necessary to LB 26 and I would urge this body to adopt those amendments, but I would further state that Senator Murphy's discussion which related to property taxation and expanding the authority of the Natural Resource District to expand the property tax in a control area does not relate to the committee amendments and I think that discussion should properly be...I think that is a point that very definitely does need to be addressed and I am certain there will be a good deal of discussion on that but it is not pertinent to the vote that will be coming up shortly. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, speaking specifically to the committee amendments, there is one which I feel is very important, one aspect of the committee amendments which I feel does need to be adopted, and if you are looking at LB 26, on the top of page 6, we strike some language in lines two through 5 and the language we strike is as follows: "And the Director shall defer issuance of any order effecting such control area designation until the consent of the district is received or the sixty days have elapsed whichever comes first." Now this is an important amendment. What we are doing with this amendment is ensuring that the locally elected Natural Resource District, the local Board of Directors of a Resource District cannot be pulled into a control area unless they concur. By striking this language, we ensure that the local NRD Board of Directors makes that decision on a control area. That is the intent of the Public Works Committee and I believe that that should be the intent of the Legislature. I personally do not believe that the Director of Water Resources should have the authority to pull them in without their consent, because if we do that, we are going to make a serious blow to the local control over groundwater in the State of Nebraska. So these amendments are important. I do think they deserve your support, and if we want to preserve local control in the designation of control areas, especially where in this particular section we are talking about contiguous areas, then I think we do need to adopt the committee amendments and then proceed with the discussion of the bill and