

February 3, 1981

LB 81

Resources Districts for several years now. They are proven. We are not going to change that. They are accepted and this archaic structure that has existed in the past is no longer needed. Over and over again it is very easy, not much trauma, to give birth to new program but to try and eliminate any type of governmental agency seems next to impossible. Here is an opportunity to do that. I think we ought to accept this opportunity and eliminate this no longer needed function.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it was last year or the year before I had an amendment which did put this sunset clause on there. However, at this point I am supporting the bill as it has been amended since the funding has been reduced considerably, and at the hearing the other day, it was brought out that this conservation districts, they are using fourteen hundredths of a mill, fourteen hundredths of a mill. I believe that is correct. And the NRD is well below its mill levy limit so added together they are still less than the amount that the NRD could be levying for these purposes. I frankly have changed my position on this. I think this is a special situation where there is a group here that are doing a good job for the local situation and we even had the manager of the NRD come in and testify that this conservation district group should be continued and there was no opposition to the bill. So what I am saying at this point is the amount of money we are talking about is very small, that the money is not in excess of what would be spent if we did eliminate the conservation districts so I believe that these districts should be continued under the present situation. So I support LB 81.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I support LB 81. The reasons have been given, let me quickly reiterate. We are not starting anything new. This has been in existence a long while. It is a group of people who are dedicated and are doing a good job. No one in this room believes in NRDs more than I do but I certainly would hate to discourage anyone from assisting in the same effort and these men evidently are doing it. I am not on the committee. I haven't talked to any of them, but after hearing this testimony, I certainly do support and I hope you do support LB 81.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.