

Let us not save money on salaries of a position like this in exchange for an individual that is less qualified and less capable of handling this important position.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, may I refer a question? Would Senator Cullan answer a question, please? It says, as defined he shall be a professional engineer as defined in Section 81-840. What kind of an engineer is that, Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: A professional engineer, Senator Haberman, I'm not sure I am familiar with that particular section but....

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you very much. I rise...first of all, I rise to thank Senator Kremer for letting us have a chance to debate this and I would like to support the amendment because what kind of an engineer are we going to have? Are we going to have a chemical engineer, an industrial engineer or a civil engineer, electrical engineer? There is all different kinds of engineers that we can hire and a lot of these engineers just because they have an engineer degree doesn't say they are going to know anything about water. So, I feel the fact that he is an engineer shouldn't be a qualification that he should have the job. Now if you want to make it specific to somebody that has an engineer's degree in water, fine. But it says, the Director of Water Resources shall be qualified by training and experience to manage and supervise the department. He shall have five years experience and a position of responsibility in work related to water resources. He can go out and hire an engineer as a consultant if he needs one and this was put in here for a reason. Maybe the reason was raised that there isn't the proper kind of an engineer available. So, until it is specific, I would have to rise to support the committee amendment as obviously the majority of the members of the committee who heard the debate on the bill, the pros and cons, felt that it was a good amendment or it wouldn't be before us. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wagner, do you wish to speak to amendments 1 and 2?

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker and members, I think my little bill is becoming something else now and I probably have some mixed emotions about what we should do with the bill. Senator Peterson and Senator Cullan are both engineers. They seem to have some very great concerns and maybe even Senator Kremer over there...I kind of wonder maybe if you would like, maybe put it back to the committee or something like that. You may want to consider a public hearing. I