

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a co-signer and sponsor of this with Senator Lamb's permission and I think it is time that I speak. First of all, if you look at the proponents of this, I don't believe you can say that they are being selfish. There are people here sincerely concerned about water issues. Oftentimes you have elected boards who are not always as responsible as we would like them to be. What this does is allows for a petition that people who have a great interest in water because it is a main source of their livelihood and allows them to establish a control area when others may not do it. So, therefore, even though I might be a suburban Senator...Senator Schmit always calls me an urban, but I am suburban and so I do understand water a little bit. And I serve on the Public Works Committee and I think that there are times when I sit there in frustration when we really don't want to do much about water because we believe it is there forever. What is wrong with a group of petitioners who have as their livelihood agriculture and who see it being drained away and nothing being done about it because no one thinks it has yet reached a crises or catastrophic stage. This is action by people responsible and knowing something must be done. Let's try it. And I would remind Senator Cullan there is a severability clause in this bill that if there is any part of it that is unconstitutional, that will take care of itself.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb, you are recognized to close. The motion is to advance the bill.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, first I would like to comment on Senator DeCamp's kill motion which was...or amendment, I should say, which would allow...and that amendment was withdrawn and probably will be offered at a later time, and that amendment would allow a vote to withdraw from a control area. My initial reaction was that there is nothing wrong with that but let me explain why I may have second thoughts about that proposition. And to do that, let me run back through the way a control area is formed. First the natural resource district directors decide there should be a control area. Those are the people that are elected by the people. Those directors are elected by the people. So here is the method which really springs from a vote of the people to form all control areas. Now then it goes to the Director of Water Resources for his approval. Okay, it has already had a tacit approval from the voters through the NRD directors. It has had that. Then it went to the Director for his approval. If he declines, then the whole thing is down the drain because of the Director's disapproval. So there is a significant difference between what Senator DeCamp is proposing